

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper and the Downtown News

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Staten Island Yankee Kyle Larsen, who had tripled in a run earlier in the game, shatters bat his second time up during the first-ever New York-Penn League All-Star Game, which took place at Keyspan Park Tuesday night.

CONEY'S STARRY NIGHT

Penn League's best a hit at ballpark

By Vince DiMiceli
The Brooklyn Papers

Fireworks lit up the sky in streams of red, white and blue and balloons were let fly into the twilight as the final verse of "The Star Spangled Banner" was sung at Keyspan Park Tuesday night, kicking off the first professional all-

star baseball game in Brooklyn since 1949.

And while no major leaguers took the field, the capacity crowd was treated to a well-played contest that pitted the best players the New York-Penn League (NYPL) has to offer.

In the end, the league's first-ever all-star game saw the National League-affiliated squad defeat the American League-affiliated squad 5-4.

Cyclones right-hander Bobby Parnell was handed the ball by National League manager Tom Prince, of the Williamsport Crosscutters, and he promptly struck out two of the first three batters he faced after allowing a hard liner to center fielder and Cyclone teammate Joe Holden.

Chuckling for the American Leaguers was Staten Island Yankees right hander David Seccombe, who also put the side

down in order in the top of the first.

But in the second, a single by Ryan Patterson, of the Auburn Doubledays, was followed by a booming triple to deal center field by Yankee Kyle Larsen, who was booed ferociously by the Brooklyn-heavy crowd.

The Nationals first hit didn't come until the third, when Chad Gabriel, of the New Jersey Cardinals, grounded a single up the middle with one out. He got as far as second thanks to a weak ground ball by the Vermont Expos' Leonard Davis, but was left stranded when Vladimir Sutil, of the Tri-City Valley Cats, struck out on three pitches.

They took the lead in the fifth, batting around and scoring three runs.

It started innocently enough when, Hudson Valley Renegades Wade Davis in for the Amer-

icans, Steven Pearce, of the Williamsport Crosscutters, singled to center. After Jamestown Jammers Jeff Van Houten struck out, Davis got a little wild, walking Clay Harris, of the Batavia Muckdogs, before Cardinal Chad Gabriel was hit by a pitch.

Davis then followed with a single to left that plated Harris, and Sutil followed with an RBI single to right. After Holden struck out on a high and outside fastball, Jammers Gabby Sanchez singled in two more runs with a liner to center, giving the Nationals a 4-1 bulge.

The Nats tacked on a run in the sixth when pinch hitter Mark Orr, of the Valley Cats, led off the inning with a single, was sacrificed to second, went to third on a single by Harris and scored on a grounder to second by the Cardinals' Sean Danielson.

See **ALL-STARs** on page 4

18 ON COUNCIL JOIN TISH TO

ATTACK LAND GRABS

Bill would axe city cash for Ratner's Nets plan

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A bill was introduced in the City Council this week that would bar the city from using eminent domain solely for economic development purposes and prohibit city funds from being used for such projects.

Eighteen council members signed on as co-sponsors of the legislation, drafted by Prospect Heights Councilwoman Letitia James.

The legislation came in response to a June ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that affirmed the right of state governments to take private property in the name of economic development.

The bill, if passed before developer Bruce Ratner works out a deal to purchase development rights from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and then gains state

environmental approval for his Atlantic Yards plan, could cut half of the \$200 million committed to the project by the city and state. The Ratner project calls for construction of a 19,000-seat basketball arena and a 17-tower office and residential complex emanating from the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues over a six-square-block swath of Prospect Heights.

It also threatens the use of eminent domain to condemn up to 13 acres of private property.

"Obviously it came in response to the [Supreme Court's] decision," James said of the legislation. "I wanted to limit the use of public funds in a private taking, and in a private development, for primarily private reasons, which is different than for a public taking," she said, speaking of the Atlantic Yards project, which is planned for her district.

James has unwaveringly opposed the Atlantic Yards proposal, and did not hedge when expressing how the bill would affect the project.

"It would be used for the purposes of the Atlantic Yards and other takings throughout the City of New York, where a private developer is benefiting and it's not for a public use," said James.

Co-signors of the bill included Brooklyn City Council members Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst), Charles Barron (D-East New York, Brownsville), Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick-Ridgewood), Al Vann (D-Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights) and James Oddo (R-Bensonhurst, Dyker Heights, Bath Beach and Staten Island).

Eleven members of the 23-member Land Use committee are co-sponsors of the bill, including the committee's chairwoman, Melinda

See **COUNCIL** on page 5



A 'fine' mess

Smith, Court eateries vow to fight city's backyard cafe summonses

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

The simmering tension between the owners of bars and restaurants along Court and Smith streets and residents in Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Boerum Hill reached a boiling point last week when the city slapped fines on 12 out of 14 establishments with backyard patio or garden space after neighbors complained about noise.

But the business owners were not hit with noise violations, instead they received summonses for building code infractions citing "change of occupancy." It seems that the complaints, processed through the city's 311 telephone line, were put through to the Department of Buildings, which has no prurience over noise.

Now, the owners of the fined establishments are fighting back.

Saying they've been victimized by the anonymous complaint system, the dozen owners who received violations are banding together with the South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation (SBLDC), to contest the violations in court.

Dave Schneider, a former president of the New York State Restaurant Association, who owns an eatery on Court Street that was not tick-

eted, helped organize the effort.

"There may be some certain city codes that deal with this, but the ones [the Buildings Department] is citing have nothing to do with what they're talking about," said Schneider, who also owns several restaurants in Manhattan, and did not want the name of his Brooklyn eatery disclosed for fear of it being targeted by city inspectors.

"It's strictly a code that deals with changing your building — changing the look, the size, the structure of the building, not how many people are sitting in your garden," he said.

"A garden is not something that needs to be listed with the Buildings Department," he insisted, claiming that unlike sidewalk cafes, gardens are already private property.

"Most of us pay extra money to use our gardens to our landlords already," Schneider said. A Department of Buildings spokeswoman begged to differ.

"A certificate of occupancy states what can be used in the occupancy group — if it's a restaurant, you need permission to use a backyard," said agency spokeswoman Jennifer Givner.

She said the businesses wouldn't be receiving the violations at all if they had followed proper procedure.

You need permission from the department

See **FINE MESS** on page 6



Alan Harding, owner of several Smith Street restaurants, pictured in his open-air beer garden the Gowanus Yacht Club, says additional outdoor seating is the only way most eateries can pay the bills.

Owners defend gardens

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

In the wake of surprise inspections of their establishments by the city, several Smith and Court street restaurant and bar owners said this week that dealing with neighbors' complaints while at the same time trying to draw in clientele is like walking a tightrope.

At the center of the dispute is the use of their backyard gardens and patios, which the business owners see as a necessary summer draw, but which also draw noise complaints from residents of the neighboring brownstone and brick walk-ups.

Based on noise complaints through the city's 311 information and complaint line, 12 of 14 establishments on Smith and Court streets were issued "occupancy violation" summonses in a sweep the first week of August.

Alan Harding, who owns bars and restaurants with backyards along Smith Street, and one on Van Brunt Street in Red Hook, said it was always a delicate balance when opening an establishment with a backyard that is below apartment buildings and faces or adjoins other

See **GARDENS** on page 6

Audit: \$175G 'slush' funds to Ridge, Hurst

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Using a tax scheme that he called a private "slush fund" for the mayor, City Comptroller William Thompson has charged that \$175,000 was illegally distributed by the city to Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst projects.

Thompson's audit, released earlier this month, charges that the Bloomberg administration diverted more than \$22 million in city funds collected through a financing scheme known as P.L.O.T.s — payments in lieu of taxes — which assist economic development projects. Bay Ridge-Bensonhurst was the only area mentioned in the Thompson report, with an allotment of \$175,000.

That 2002 allocation from the city Economic Development Corporation came during a tumultuous election year in Bay Ridge when then-Councilman Mary Golden, a Republican, unseated the incumbent Democrat representing the neighborhood in the state Senate, Vincent Gentile. Bloomberg campaigned for Golden, who, political insiders believe, the district was advantageously redrawn by the Republican leadership in Albany.

A few months later, Gentile won a special election to replace Golden in the City Council.

Gentile said he was floored by Thompson's finding on the \$175,000 allotment.

"I found out when [a newspaper reporter] called me," he said.

Gentile believes the money was used for an ongoing Fifth Avenue beautification project that was funded, at the behest of Golden, during the 2002 crossover from the Giuliani administration to the Bloomberg administration.

"I wasn't privy to where the money went in Bay Ridge-Bensonhurst," he said. "It's a huge allocation for a sitting

elect official," said Gentile's chief of staff, Greg Hanlon. "We were blindsided by [the audit's findings], and it certainly doesn't seem to be in line with — it had all the appearances of a political gift."

Patrick Condren, director of the Bay Ridge-Bensonhurst Preservation and Beautification Alliance, said he wasn't sure exactly where the lump

sum of money went.

"I've heard about it, but I want to see it," Condren said, adding that he had not read Thompson's report.

"We've had beautification grants here for years, from a wide number of sources," he said, and they act as a conduit for the funds coming from Gentile, Council Assemblyman Dov Hikind and Rep. Vito Fossella.

Argument leads to scalding

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

An argument between two customers at a coffee shop on Court Street in Cobble Hill escalated when one dumped hot coffee on the other, police said.

The victim, 32, told police he was at the coffeehouse, between Bergen and Dean streets, and was buying a cup of joe at 10:40 a.m. on Aug. 18. He got into an argument with another customer, who grew violent and dumped his scalding beverage on the victim.

The victim suffered burns and was transported to Long Island College Hospital by paramedics. Police said he was unable to describe the coffee crazy, who quickly bolted from the shop.

Bergen holdup

An armed robber snatched the wallet of a Park Slope resident on Bergen Street just after midnight on Aug. 19, police said.

The victim, 31, told police he was walking home at 12:05 a.m. when he passed a man sitting on a stoop, on the block near Bond Street. The stranger left the steps and approached the victim from behind, saying, "Give me your stuff. You don't want to get hurt. I have a gun."

The robber then grabbed the victim by the shirt and snatched his wallet and cell phone, before fleeing east on Bergen Street, police said. The wallet contained a credit card, an ATM card, a driver's license and \$40 in cash.

Grocery robbed

Thieves snatched nearly \$24,000 in cash from a Smith Street grocery store in the previous night, allowing the thieves to escape with \$22,800 in crisp bills, according to police.

The grocery store does not have security cameras.

Caught snoozing

Thieves snagged a cell phone and cash from an un-locked car as the driver dozed inside, police said.

The victim, 26, of Brooklyn Heights, told police he fell asleep in his car around midnight on Aug. 17. The man said he was parked on State Street at Hoyt Street.

84/76 PRECINCTS

Police believe the burglars came in through a side door opening onto a hall; the lock for the door had been stolen a week earlier, according to the employee, who said that crime had not been reported to police. Once inside the building, the robbers cut a hole in the ceiling and crawled into the adjacent grocery.

Fresh picked

An elderly woman lost her purse as she was shopping at a green grocer on Court Street, police said.

School robbed

Thieves snatched more than \$6,000 in computer equipment — and a security camera — from a school on Wiloughby Street. Police said an employee of the Brooklyn Friends School told them the goods were grabbed from the prep school sometime between 12:30 p.m. on Aug. 5 and 11 a.m. on Aug. 11. It was not clear how the robbers got inside.

Employee's lock

The employee said the electronics were kept in a locked room with two security cameras pointed at the door. But the cameras — which were not recording — were stolen along

with the computer goods, according to police. Only three people have access to the room, school officials said.

Subway mugs

Two men reported being robbed — one at knife point — in subway stations downtown this week, say police.

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Quick take

Burglars struck a Bergen Street penthouse during the three hours the resident was away, police said.

The victim, 44, told police she left her apartment building, between Hoyt and Bond streets, at 6 p.m. on Aug. 16. When she returned at 9 p.m., she discovered the robbery.

Police believe

the robbers came in through an open front window. The stolen items included a laptop computer, a digital camera and 10 pieces of jewelry. Also missing was \$2,000 in foreign currency.

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Forced from bed to ATM

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Police arrested a thug who allegedly dragged a man from his bed at gunpoint and forced him to withdraw \$1,000 from his bank account.

The victim, 31, told police he was asleep at his apartment on South Oxford Street at Atlantic Avenue on Aug. 7, when he awoke to find a stranger in his bedroom holding a gun. The robber snatched two laptop computers and some cash before demanding the victim accompany him to an ATM.

When they reached a cash machine at Washington Av-

enue and Fulton Street, the robber ordered the victim to make two withdrawals of \$500 each, police said.

The mugger then forced him back to his apartment, before heading to another ATM for a third withdrawal, which failed.

On Aug. 15, police caught a suspect, who now faces robbery and other charges.

Eatery robbery

A family restaurant at Flatbush and DeKalb avenues was hit by an armed robber who claimed to be on an after-hours service call, police said.

A business manager at the eatery, part of a well-known chain of restaurants, told police a man appeared at 12:45 a.m. on Aug. 17 claiming to be a supervisor for a janitorial supply company. The visitor said he was there to check on a job from the previous night and was allowed to examine the kitchen, the manager, 26, and another employee, 31, told police.

Around 2 a.m., the stranger asked the manager to write him a letter stating that the restaurant was "displeased with the service" the janitorial company provided. The manager replied that he did not have the appropriate, official letterhead, police said.

Then the visitor pulled out a handgun and ordered the manager and the employee into the restaurant's office, where he demanded cash. The manager turned over that night's receipts, but the armed man wanted more, police said.

The manager told him the cash was locked in a safe for the night and the robber fled, according to police.

Almost home

A man was robbed at gunpoint as he made his way

88 PRECINCT

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A man was robbed at gunpoint as he made his way

from a cab to the door of his home, police said.

The victim, 24, told police he was leaving a taxi around 11:30 p.m. on Aug. 18. As he walked through the lobby of his building, on Clinton Avenue near Fulton Avenue, a stranger pushed him up against the mailboxes, police said, and demanded, "Give me your money or I'll shoot you."

The thief grabbed the man's wallet, snatched \$30 and tossed the billfold to the floor.

Terminal slash

A police officer and a man who refused to give up his backpack during a pre-dawn heist at an Atlantic Avenue subway station, police said.

The victim, 52, of Kensington, told police it was the third time he had been robbed this year.

On Aug. 19, at 4:30 a.m., the victim was jumped while making his way up the stairs from the Q train to the Log Island Rail Road, at Atlantic Terminal, near Flatbush Avenue, according to police.

The robber flashed a box cutter and slashed him on his right cheek and his arm as he tried to wrench the victim's backpack free. But the man kept his bag and escaped, police said.

The victim was treated for his wounds, police said.

Gates Ave. burg

A man returning from work on Aug. 19 discovered \$500 in cash and electronics stolen from his apartment, police said.

The victim, 24, said that when he arrived home, at 5:30 p.m., the front door to his Gates Avenue home, near Classon Avenue, had been forced

open.

A second-floor resident told police she came home around the same time and discovered a stranger in the first-floor hallway. The man told her, "I'm coming to visit friends," she said. Her apartment was not robbed.

Guns bust

Police arrested two men after they spotted a pair of guns in their car.

When police saw a 2000 Dodge Stratus heading southbound on a northbound street, shortly after 7 p.m. on Aug. 20, they grew suspicious. The officers pulled over the car, at the corner of Prince Street and Myrtle Avenue and say they witnessed one of the occupants grabbing two handguns from the dashboard.

Police arrested the two men, ages 21 and 23, on weapons possession charges. They also recovered the guns: a 9-mm Smith & Wesson and a .40-caliber Springfield Armory.

Foul play

A gang of would-be bandits sprayed a deliveryman with air freshener during a failed robbery attempt, police said.

The pizza deliveryman suffered cuts and scratches around his eyes in the Aug. 16 attack, but held onto his cash, according to police.

The victim, 33, told police he had just delivered a pie to a first-floor apartment on Grand Avenue at Clifton Place, and was riding his bike down St. James Place. As he reached the corner of Greene Avenue, at 9:35 p.m., he noticed a group of eight to 10 men "just waiting around," police said.

Two strangers approached the victim and one sprayed him in the face with an air freshener, according to police. The victim tumbled from his bike as one of the attackers demanded, "Give me your money."

But the deliveryman was able to escape without losing any cash or property to the thugs, police said.

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Police arrested the two men, ages 21 and 23, on weapons possession charges. They also recovered the guns: a 9-mm Smith & Wesson and a .40-caliber Springfield Armory.

Foul play

A gang of would-be bandits sprayed a deliveryman with air freshener during a failed robbery attempt, police said.

The pizza deliveryman suffered cuts and scratches around his eyes in the Aug. 16 attack, but held onto his cash, according to police.

The victim, 33, told police he had just delivered a pie to a first-floor apartment on Grand Avenue at Clifton Place, and was riding his bike down St. James Place. As he reached the corner of Greene Avenue, at 9:35 p.m., he noticed a group of eight to 10 men "just waiting around," police said.

Two strangers approached the victim and one sprayed him in the face with an air freshener, according to police. The victim tumbled from his bike as one of the attackers demanded, "Give me your money."

But the deliveryman was able to escape without losing any cash or property to the thugs, police said.

The victim was treated for his wounds, police said.

Gates Ave. burg

A man returning from work on Aug. 19 discovered \$500 in cash and electronics stolen from his apartment, police said.

The victim, 24, said that when he arrived home, at 5:30 p.m., the front door to his Gates Avenue home,

Livery driver bites cabby

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

The knife-wielding driver of a dollar van bit a cabby after a minor collision on the afternoon of Aug. 17, police said.

The victim, 30, told police it was 1 pm when he bumped into the van with his cab, near the corner of Flatbush and Fifth avenues. When he got out to speak to the van driver, the man — armed with a knife — beat him on the forehead with a radio antenna, the cabby told police. The angry van driver also bit the cabby on the right arm, police said.

The cabby bolted towards the 78th Precinct stationhouse, on Sixth Avenue at Bergen Street, with the attacker in pursuit, according to police. But the victim refused to sign a complaint and did not provide a description of the driver who assaulted him, police said.

4th Ave. mug

A young woman lost \$120 to a mugger who threatened her with a gun in the early morning darkness of Aug. 19. The victim, 21, told police she was on Fourth Avenue, walking from her Third Avenue business towards her 20th Street home, and when she reached the corner of De-graw Street, at 2:15 am, a stranger appeared.

The man flashed a black handgun and demanded her bag, threatening, "If you don't give me it, I'm gonna kill you," she told police. The woman turned over her tote and the man ran down Fourth Avenue, toward Atlantic Avenue.

The victim said the canvas

bag contained her keys, a library card and book, a Verizon cell phone valued at \$100 and \$10 in cash, police said.

Canal job

A thief armed with a knife robbed a woman near the Carroll Street Bridge after dark on Aug. 18, police said. The victim, 40, told police she was heading to her Third Avenue home from a friend's house at 9 pm, and as she walked down Carroll Street, between Nevins Street and the Gowanus Canal, a stranger approached and flashed a knife, demanding, "Give me your money."

The woman turned over her red velvet purse and cell phone and the thief fled toward Third Avenue on a red mountain bike.

Police may be helped in finding the mugger by surveillance videotape from security cameras at a plumbing shop on the block.

Language barrier

A Spanish-speaking teenager was beaten and robbed by a trio of attackers he didn't understand, police said.

The victim, 16, told police he was riding his bike near the corner of Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street at 12:15 am on Aug. 16. As the teenager paused for a red light, three strangers approached. One spoke to him, but not understanding English, he couldn't make out what he said.

Suddenly the victim felt someone strike him on the head and he tumbled from his bike, police said. The thugs snatched his ride and fled the area, police were unable to get

78/72 PRECINCTS

a detailed description of the trio from the young victim.

Hi-tech haul

Burglars hit a Second Street home during the day on Aug. 18, making off with \$2,500 in electronics, police said.

The residents, a man, 42, and woman, 37, told police they left the building, near Fifth Avenue, at 8 am. When they returned, at 4:30 pm, the windows were broken and their valuables stolen. Police believe the robbers left through the back door.

The list of missing items reported to police included a HP laptop, valued at \$2,000, a Dell laptop, a \$250 BlackBerry wireless device and a Minolta digital camera, valued at \$250.

Unhappy returns

Burglars snatched nearly \$3,000 in property from a Prospect Park West apartment while the residents were on vacation, police said.

The victims, a woman, 26 and man, 24, told police they left town at 8 am on Aug. 13. When they returned on the afternoon of Aug. 15, they discovered an open window leading to the fire escape of their building, near Sixth Street.

The thieves made off with two Apple iBook laptops, with a combined value of \$2,500, a \$300 iPod and an 18-karat ruby ring, according to police reports.

Early bird

Thieves snatched more than \$500 in electronics from a Baltic Street home — all before breakfast on Aug. 17,

police said.

Residents of the apartment, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, told police burglars must have jimmied the front door lock sometime between 4 am and 8 am. Once inside, the robbers snatched three cell phones and a laptop computer, reported the homeowner. She said the phones were worth between \$50 and \$80 and the IBM ThinkPad was valued at \$400, police said.

Boozing burps

Robbers broke into a Seventh Avenue restaurant and made off with a dozen bottles of booze, police said.

The owner of the popular grill, near Lincoln Place, told police that workers had closed up at 1 am on Aug. 16. When an employee returned at 6:35 am, he discovered a broken window and the missing liquor.

Police said it is possible the robbers came in through a door left unlocked and dragged their booty out a back door that was discovered open. The liquor — a mix of different brands — was valued at \$500, police said.

Bike bandits

A man lost his wallet and iPod to a pair of black-clad armed men who attacked him on Nevins Street, police said.

The victim, 41, told police he was near Union Street at 4:10 pm on Aug. 20 when two strangers on bikes rode past him and then made a U-turn. The thieves confronted him and

snatched the iPod from his belt, but wanted more.

One flashed a silver knife and said, "Give me your money," the victim told police. He victim turned over his wallet and the robbers fled, riding east on Sackett Street.

The stolen wallet, valued at \$150, contained several credit cards, a driver's license and \$200 in cash, the victim said. The iPod was valued at \$300, police said.

Car crimes

Seven vehicles were among those reported stolen or burglarized in Park Slope this week, police said.

On Aug. 15, a 2002 Harley Davidson motorcycle was stolen from 15th Street, as the owner worked nearby, police said. The victim, 44, said he had left the bike between 6:05 am and 7:05 am while he moved cars for a nearby collision-repair shop, located between Second and Third avenues.

Sometime between the evening of Aug. 16 and the next morning a 1991 Honda Accord — loaded with special education teaching equipment and stereo equipment — was stolen from 10th Street, between Third and Fourth avenues, police said.

The victim, a Long Island woman, said she left the car at 5 pm on Aug. 16, when she returned at 7:45 am the next day, the vehicle was gone. On Aug. 20, robbers tried to snatch a 1993 Honda Civic from Second Street near Seventh Avenue, say police. The owner, 42, said he left the car at 1:30 am, and when he returned at 2:30 pm, the steering column was ripped apart.

Sometime after dark on

Aug. 18, thieves snaggled more than \$2,000 in electronics from a Lincoln Navigator on Eighth Avenue near Seventh Street, police said.

The owner, 35, said he left the car at 9 pm on Aug. 18, and returned at 11 am the next day to find the driver's-side window smashed. The stolen items included the car's stereo system, valued at \$1,500, an iPod worth \$400, a \$100 iPod adapter for the car, sunglasses, valued at \$350, a \$300 Sony digital camera, a 1 GB computer memory stick worth \$125 and 25 blank DVDs, valued at \$30, according to police.

Sometime between 10:30 pm on Aug. 15 and 7:30 am on Aug. 16, thugs removed the headlights from a 2001 BMW, police said. The victim, 23, said the car was parked on Third Avenue at 12th Street.

A witness interrupted a car burglary on Aug. 15, but the thieves still escaped with a pair of airbags and the computer equipment to operate the devices, police said. The witness told police she saw someone inside the 2003 Chevrolet sedan, parked on 10th Street at Eighth Avenue, at 7:08 pm. When she asked, "What are you doing?" the robber fled westbound on 10th Street, toward Eighth Avenue, police said.

After dark on Aug. 14, robbers grabbed the airbags from a 2005 Honda Civic parked on Berkeley Place at Eighth Avenue, police said. The victim, 74, who lives on the block, told police he left the car at 9 pm on Aug. 14; when he returned at 1 pm the next day, the front vent window was broken and the airbags were gone.

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Man knocked from
BQE near Tillary St.

Survives 30-foot plunge with 2 broken legs

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A man survived a nearly three-story plunge from the elevated Brooklyn-Queens Expressway in Fort Greene during Monday's rush hour. The victim, 47, of Queens, was knocked off the busy span after another car crashed into his, near the Tillary Street exit. The 6:06 am accident scarred

traffic in both directions, attracting rubber-necks, television news helicopters and a fleet of emergency responders.

The man remained in critical condition Tuesday at Bellevue Hospital, where he was transported with two broken legs and other injuries, according to police.

"He's really lucky to be alive for the fall that he took," a nurse at the hospital told Newsday. The man underwent surgery on Monday night, while doctors were

still assessing his wounds.

Neighbors said the victim was a truck driver who lived with his adult son, according to news accounts. They described him as hard working and friendly.

Police said the victim experienced car trouble during the early morning commute and steered his 1989 Jeep over to the right of the BQE's southbound lanes and stopped outside to assess the problem.

As he tinkered under the hood, his car was rear-ended by a

1991 Toyota driven by a Bronx man, 24, according to police.

The impact sent the victim flying over the guardrail and about 30 feet to the street below. Emergency medical workers recovered the severely injured man from under the elevated roadway, near the corner of Park Avenue and Clermont Street.

Police arrested the driver of the Toyota and charged him with driving with a suspended license. He was not given a ticket for the accident.

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B'klyn businessman Spinner dead at 82

The Brooklyn Papers

Frank C. Spinner Jr., president of Spinner Industries, died on Aug. 18 at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in Manhattan. The Dyker Heights resident was 82.

Spinner was born and raised in Brooklyn and attended Bay Ridge's St. Ephrem's School and Brooklyn Technical High School. A design engineer who graduated from Polytechnic University, Spinner was a pioneer in developing large-scale automatic vehicle washing systems for autos, buses and railway cars and held the patent to some of the innovative equipment he fabricated.

In 1949, he established Spinner Industries in Sunset Park.

During World War II, Spinner served in the Marine Corps, meeting his wife of 60 years, also a member of the Marine Corps. They first met one another while assigned to the Cherry Point Naval Air Station in North Carolina. As a result of his introduction to flying while a Marine, he later studied and trained for his own private pilot's license. He flew his own light propeller Cessna aircraft for more than three decades.

In 1968, Spinner was the Republican candidate running against incumbent Democratic Congressman Hugh L. Carey, in Brooklyn's 15th Congressional District, then covering Park Slope and Bay Ridge. Carey retained the seat, and Spinner challenged him again in 1970, but lost to the incumbent, who went on to become governor of New York.

At the time of his death, Spinner was president of the Society of Old Brooklynites, which was founded in 1880 when Brooklyn was an independent city. Each year, he presided over remembrance ceremonies in Fort Greene Park, at the site of the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument. Below the 148-foot-tall Doric Column is a crypt containing the re-



Frank C. Spinner Jr.

mains of 11,500 patriots who were incarcerated at the British prison ships during the American Revolution. The monument was erected through the efforts of the Society of Old Brooklynites, the Daughters of the American Revolution and by a series of articles written by newspaper editor Walt Whitman. Whitman was also a member of the society.

As the group's president, Spinner was working with the city Department of Parks and Recreation to have a lighted

flame — designed by his firm and powered by solar energy — placed atop the monument's column.

Spinner was also a long-time member of the board of directors of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Brooklyn Salvation Army Advisory Board, the Bay Ridge Day Nursery, the 12-30 Club of Bay Ridge and the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center. He was the founder and past chairman of the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corp., and a past president of the Bay Ridge Forum.

One of his great-grandchildren, Francis Elias Spinner, was U.S. Treasurer during the Lincoln administration.

As a vice president of the Bay Ridge Community Council and chairman of their tree planting committee, he was responsible for planting 1,000 trees in the Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights and Sunset Park

neighborhoods. He was a member of the Baron DeKalb Council of the Knights of Columbus and a lifelong purchaser of the Shrine of St. Bernard, a Roman Catholic Church, in Dyker Heights.

In addition to his wife, the former Vertie Harrington, Spinner is survived by his six children: Kathy Albinder, Eileen Tupper, Dolores Segall, Francine Kelley, Michael Spinner, Christopher Spinner and five grandchildren. Two of his children, Frank III and Ruth, died earlier.

The funeral service was held on Monday at the Shrine of St. Bernard church, on 82nd Street at 13th Avenue. Spinner was buried in St. John Cemetery, Middle Village, Queens.

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting donations be made to the Mercy Home for Children, 243 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY 11215, or the Society of Old Brooklynites, 4018 Third Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11222.

ALL-STARS

Continued from page 1

That run would turn out to be the game winner as, with Muckdog Kyle Kendrick pitching in the eighth, the American Leaguers scored three times.

Brian Bomaster, of the Doubledeys, started things off with a single to left before Jed Lowrie, of the Lowell Spinners, reached on an error, the only one of the game. The Yankees' Eduardo Nunez then singled in a run, pushing Lowrie to third, before he stole second.

Kendrick had a chance to get out of the inning without any further damage when he struck out Onoronta Tiger Justin Justice and Mahoning Vipper Scrapper Jose Constanza. He had two strikes on Mark Fleishman, but the Ab-

erdeen Ironbird rapped a single to left, scoring Lowrie.

Matt Fornasier, of the Scrappers, doubled in Nunez. Kendrick was then replaced by Jeremy Zick, of the Cardinals, who got Garrett Groce, of the Hudson Valley Renegades, to fly to right, ending the threat.

After the National League went down 1-2-3 in the eighth, the Americans threatened again in the top of the ninth.

With Zick still on the mound, back-to-back singles by Tiger Cory Middleton and Brian Bomaster, of the Doubledeys, were followed by a fly out by Lowrie and a ground out by Nunez to the pitcher, putting runners on first and third. Zick then walked Justice to load the

bases, but got Constanza to bounce to short to end the game.

GAME NOTES

Cyclones who played in the game included starter Bobby Parnell, who struck out four batters over two innings of work, giving up one run on two hits. Center fielder Joe Holden also got the start, going 1-for-4 and making a great catch running toward the wall in the first inning. First baseman Josh Peterson, nursing a bad injury, did not play.

Staten Island Yankees players included starting pitcher Dave Scoville, who threw two scoreless innings, striking out one and not walking a batter. First baseman Kyle Larsen went 1-for-2 with a triple, scoring the first run of the game. Yankees shortstop Eduardo Nunez had an RBI-single, a stolen base and a run scored in three at bats.



By Randi Weingarten

The start of school is usually a season of hope as students, parents and educators look forward to building on the gains of the previous school year. New York City's teachers certainly had reason to be hopeful because of statements Mayor Bloomberg made at a town hall meeting just last month.

Noting the significant improvement in student test scores that teachers helped achieve despite working 2½ years without a raise, the mayor said he expected to have a new contract with "substantial" pay raises in place by the start of school.

But the mayor's public outburst of optimism has not been followed by the effort needed to get to closure. The contract negotiations never materialized, despite repeated attempts by the United Federation of Teachers to get them going again. As a result, both sides are still locked in non-binding arbitration and are awaiting contract recommendations from a state panel of fact-finders.

This means there will be no contract before the start of the school year because the panel has told us it will issue its findings after Labor Day. How ironic that the mayor uses the hard work of teachers to crow about the improvement in student test scores as he runs for re-election while refusing to engage in the work necessary to close on a contract for those very same teachers.

I am profoundly disappointed. If the mayor of the City of New York tells the public to expect a teacher contract before the start of school — which is in everybody's interest — that means he should try to negotiate to closure. The failure to do so is a bad thing for the kids, the teachers and

anybody who believes that education is important. Doing what's best for kids shouldn't be aligned with the political season. It should be aligned with the school year to build on the momentum of academic success.

That success was achieved even though teachers in the city have the highest class sizes in the state. Our teachers are paid the least in the region, 14% to 26% below teachers who have similar jobs in surrounding counties and towns just two minutes across the city borders. The city — despite the police arbitration award which gave cops a retroactive salary increase of 10% over two years while prospectively cutting new cops' salaries — still insists that teachers receive 4.17% over three years with no increase in the first year.

The UFT has been trying to negotiate competitive salaries, but we've also been dealing head-on with really tough issues. For example, I have said consistently — publicly and privately — that any teacher who sexually abuses kids should be kicked out of teaching for good.

We believe the proposal the UFT made to help incompetent teachers or, if unsuccessful, to counsel them out of the profession, is better than anything the city has put forth.

But rather than act on these proposals, the city is dragging its

feet. Sadly, state law allows the mayor to get away with it. That's why the UFT asked the State Legislature to change the Taylor Law governing local governments' contract negotiations with their municipal employees. The current process that allows the city to delay negotiations for years should be changed so that the impasse procedure would begin within six months after a contract expires. That bill has passed the state Legislature and is under consideration by the Governor.

Such delays demoralize teachers and drive many of them away. Not counting retirements, last year 3,500 seasoned city educators left the system. Many resigned because they didn't get paid enough and could earn much more in nearby towns or in other professions. A recent report noted that teacher attrition is costing New York State more than \$350 million!

But even in the face of two and a half years without a raise, New York City teachers continue to work hard for the kids and they have not let the contract battle affect the classroom. Thanks to teachers' hard work, the mayor and the chancellor get to celebrate the results, but they continue to treat teachers unfairly.

Those of us at the UFT were encouraged by Mayor Bloomberg's statements about having a new contract, with substantial raises in place before September. We had hoped we would be able to wipe the slate clean and start the academic year with a fair contract to create a can-do atmosphere in the school system. But it won't happen unless there are face-to-face negotiations and a deadline.

The UFT is willing. Where is the administration?

BCAT Program Guide — What's on Brooklyn Community Access Television

Brooklyn By The Sea

By Rahul Chadha

There's not much space left on the faux wood-paneled walls of Pat Singer's storefront office on Brighton Beach Avenue, in the heart of Little Odessa. Two corkboards that hang in the tiny space can barely see through a collection of three by five prints attached to them that, over the years, have spilled over to appropriate the adjacent unadorned wall surfaces. The men and women in the pictures are generally outfitted in suits and formal dresses, and many of them are famous—at least in New York City. There are a slew of New York City mayors, both former and present: John Lindsay, Ed Koch, Rudolph Giuliani, Michael Bloomberg. All pictured with a wide-smiling Singer.

As the snapshots affirm, Singer has held court with some of New York's most powerful and influential personalities since she founded the Brighton Neighborhood Association in 1977. But in her role as host of the Brooklyn Community Access-produced series *Neighborhood Beat: Brooklyn By The Sea*, Singer is more than happy to have her picture taken with workaday stiffs, business owners and other assorted residents of the neighborhoods of Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Seagate and Sheepshead Bay. "It's kind of like the poor man's *Oprah Winfrey*, or a one-woman *The View*," is how Singer describes the egalitarian approach of the show. "It's a nice interview show. We take people to where it's happening."

The genesis of *Brooklyn By The Sea* came about three years ago, when Singer was approached by BCAT and Borough President Marty Markowitz with the idea of hosting a program focused on Brighton Beach, a show that would offer "historical, cultural and informative points of view unique to the neighborhood," as described on BCAT's website. (The pilot season, underwritten by the Borough President's office, covered three Brooklyn neighborhoods: Bay Ridge; Bedford-Stuyvesant; and Brighton Beach. It has since expanded to eleven neighborhoods.)

Singer is uniquely well suited to host the series. Her mother, the widow of immigrants who hailed from Odessa, grew up in Brighton Beach. While Singer herself was raised in Queens Village, she relocated to her mother's old neighborhood in 1964, shortly before the neighborhood began to suffer from a decline in quality of life.

The change was a result of the exodus of the younger, counter-culture generation's rebellion of their parents' status quo, says Singer. "A lot of these ghettoes, these old Jewish and Italian neighborhoods, began to deteriorate," she says. But even through the hard times, Singer refused to give up on her neighborhood, instead founding the Brighton Neighborhood Association and organizing residents to lobby politicians for greater police presence on their streets.

Today, Singer's show functions as a testimonial of those people, reflecting the tenacity and beauty of the residents, who like her, stick it out when things were not at their best. One of her goals in hosting the show is to help dispel the myths of Brighton Beach as an enclave of mobbed-up Eastern European émigrés. "I want viewers to see the Russian community for who they are, I want them to see them as people," she says.

In the past three years, Singer has come to embrace the interconnectedness of the adjoining neighborhoods, and last April changed the format of the show to include Coney Island, Sheepshead Bay, Manhattan Beach and Seagate. A recent show featured an examination of Coney Island in which Singer managed to nab an interview with Richard Miras, an MTA program manager, on the topic of the renovation of the Stillwell Avenue subway station that serves as terminus to four of the city's largest subway lines. Singer then made her way to Gargiolo's Italian Restaurant, a family-owned restaurant that has spanned three generations in its current location. The last segment of the show was a visit to the Williams



Host Pat Singer shares her love of Brooklyn's seaside communities on BCAT's *Neighborhood Beat: Brooklyn By The Sea*.

Candy Shop, a mainstay of Coney Island that has served up candied apples, cotton candy and oversized lollipops to the teeming masses for over 50 years.

Kare Harris, senior producer of the *Neighborhood Beat* series for BCAT, notes that it is Singer's charming demeanor and killer smile that puts even the most camera-shy interviewee at ease. "She's a very dynamic person who is very knowledgeable about her neighborhood," says Harris. "It's a lot of fun working with her." Harris hopes that people watching the show will not only learn something, but also become motivated to go and visit these neighborhoods, eschewing the patriarchal Brooklyn is historically known for. Says Harris: "We want to make sure that in hearing the voices of the host, we are also hearing the voices of the neighborhood."

Singer is certainly hearing the voices of the neighborhood — through feedback from area residents. "The joy of it is when people open their doors and tell me how much they enjoy the show." While some at first were suspicious of seeing her team on the streets with a video camera, these days, shop owners greet her with: "When are you going to do me?"

A new segment of *Neighborhood Beat: Brooklyn By The Sea* can be seen on the third Tuesday of the month at 8:30pm on Time Warner Cable channel 56, Cablevision 69, and streaming live at www.bcat.tv/bcat. Encore presentations can be seen on the first Wednesday and Friday and second Thursday of the following month.

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Ratner arena foes pack Freddy's Bar amid word of 'NewsHour' interview

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Not that the regulars of Freddy's Bar and Backroom in Prospect Heights needed an excuse to stop by the watering hole on Aug. 23, but a call for action, in the form of a mass e-mail, packed the bar more than usual for an early Tuesday evening.

The e-mail, which was subsequently picked up by various neighborhood newsgroups and Web logs, called for the troops to turn out and voice their opposition to developer Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards arena, housing and office skyscraper project for a national television program expected "at 6:00-ish 6:30-ish, to investigate the im-



Owner Frank Yost inside Freddy's Bar Tuesday night. The bar has become a gathering place for opponents of the Atlantic Yards plan.

pect of the Ratner curse."

One of the bar's two television sets was set to Long Island's PBS station, WLIW/Channel 21 (it also airs locally on WNET/Channel 13), just in case it was a live taping of the show, "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" — which has a history of award-winning, long-format TV journalism.

Now they were coming to Freddy's and nobody knew what to expect. Instead of trying to figure it out, they waited ... and they drank.

Frank Yost, who owns Freddy's, sat at the end of the bar, taking the scene in with a small, somewhat complacent smile on his face. He referred all questions to his bar manager, Donald O'Finn.

"I don't know where they are," Yost said of the "NewsHour" crew.

O'Finn said he knew just as little.

"I just got a phone call saying they were already out here, and doing a story on the Atlantic [Yards] project and wanted to come to Freddy's," said O'Finn, who has worked at the bar for eight years.

"I presume it's because we're sort of the center of the controversy here," he said. "They said they'd already talked to the other side and they wanted to talk to the community."

Scott Turner, who started the group and Web site Fans for Fair Play, an organization opposed to Ratner's plan, said the e-mail and word was spread by a "Fredzren" — a denizen of Freddy's.

"We were going to be here anyway," said Turner. "That's the thing about Freddy's — if there's an emergency response, people will come out here. But any reason to come to Freddy's."

Turner, lampooning the claims by Ratner and Borough President Marty Markowitz that the area is blighted and in need of development, joked that he was "forced out of Prospect Heights — it's so blighted I couldn't afford the rent."

Gavin Smith, a local resident who showed off an anti-arena poster to Patti Hagan, co-founder of the Prospect Heights Action Coalition, said he came out "just because this

is the family."

"We're circling the wagons, so they get the word out. Wherever the mainstream media shows interest, we'll take it," Smith said.

By the time the camera crew finally did arrive, after 7, half the room, which had been at standing-room-only capacity an hour earlier, had cleared out.

People immediately got on their cell phones calling friends to come back to the bar.

"But now we're all drunk!" quipped Hagan, who sipped on red wine.

In came the camera crew, which wasted no time setting up the lights, camera, and boom microphone, blocking the entrance to the bar.

Nobody seemed to mind the sudden intrusion, and conversations went back to the topics at hand.

Luis Suarez, a Brooklyn native and former host of National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation," interviewed bartender and Prospect Heights resident Roger Paz.

"This is a low-rise community. It's going to be like having Houston imposed on a brownstone neighborhood," Paz said of Ratner's Atlantic Yards proposal. "And they want us to be gleeful about our own obsolescence."

Suarez, who was born in Crown Heights, raised in Bensonhurst, and spent many of his adult years in Park Slope, is the author of "The Old Neighborhood: What We Lost in the Great Suburban Migration, 1966-1999," in which he addressed the loss of urban neighborhoods.

He went on to interview several anti-arena activists and other Freddy's patrons, basically whoever jumped in front of the microphone.

Prior to coming to Freddy's, the show interviewed Atlantic Yards supporters such as Borough President Marty Markowitz and ACORN director Bertha Lewis, as well as opponents such as Councilwoman Letitia James and Candace Carpenter, legal adviser for the anti-arena group Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn.

The segment is expected to air on PBS in two to three weeks.

COUNCIL...

Continued from page 1
Katz, a Democrat from Forest Hills, Queens.

James said she believed much of the bill's support came from a sentiment supporting the rights of private property owners that was solidified following the Supreme Court's ruling.

"I think there's been a groundswell of support around the nation around property rights and in protest of the Supreme Court's decision," said James. "That sentiment is what I'm feeling, not only in my district, but throughout the City of New York."

Gentile said he supported the bill out of principle.

"Eminent domain was originally intended for the public good, not to line the pockets of a particular private citizen, and this is how it should remain," said the former state senator. "We have to be vigilant in ensuring that this considerable government power is applied with utmost discretion."

Ratner and his major supporters, who include Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Gov. George Pataki and Borough President Marty Markowitz,

argue the massive development will provide more housing and bring in new tax revenues, both for the public good.

The bill defines "economic development" as "any activity to increase tax revenue, tax base, employment, or general economic health, when that economic activity does not result in the transfer of land to 'public ownership ... such as a road, hospital or military base' or 'to a private entity that is a common carrier, such as a railroad or a utility.'"

The bill could potentially stifle funding for city and state development corporations seeking incentives like tax breaks, tax abatements, subsidies and initiatives if those entities put forth projects that require the condemnation of private land.

The city's Housing Development Corporation has reported that the \$3 billion Atlantic Yards project could cost taxpayers \$76 million in subsidies.

As reported in last week's Brooklyn Papers, whether or not the project is approved, a signed agreement between the city, state and Ratner commits

extended development rights that sidestep city review to the developer over the existing Atlantic Terminal and Atlantic Center malls, as well as a block that contains an electronics and a sporting goods store, across the street.

Representatives of the developer's company, Forest City Ratner, did not return calls seeking comment for this article.

Norman Siegel, a civil liberties attorney who represents property owners in the footprint of Ratner's proposed project, said he thought the bill could affect the Atlantic Yards proposal, if it didn't get bogged down in committee or delayed by Council Speaker Gifford Miller, a supporter of the project who is running for the Democratic mayoral nomination.

"That's a good bill, that's a bill I not only can support, but it's the kind of bill I've been advocating," said Siegel, who is a candidate for public advocate.

"I'm cautiously optimistic that the majority of people in New York City don't want eminent domain for economic development. We all grew up with the principals that the government should not, and cannot, take private property for private uses only."




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FINE MESS...

Continued from page 1

by way of a permit or letter of no objection," Givner said, which is granted by the Buildings Department borough commissioner. The restaurant or bar owner must provide an architect's design for the garden, its intended capacity and a diagram showing placement of tables and that there will be no blockage of fire escapes or exits.

The dozen businesses ticketed for "occupancy violations," according to the Buildings Department, were: Le Petite Cafe, Fragole, Fratelli Ravioli and Hill Diner, all on Court Street; and The Grocery, Panino's, Chestnut, Bombay Dream, Ciceria Vecchia, Smithwick's, Robin Dubois/Sherwood Cafe and Cafe Kai, all on Smith Street.

The Brooklyn Social Club and Village 247 Cafe and Club both produced letters of no objection and were not ticketed.

The city ticket blitz, the first

week of August, came as the result of complaints submitted along with a list of so-called trouble establishments that were provided by "the community board or a community group," Givner said.

Community Board 6, which the ticketed bar and restaurant owners blamed for having initiated the clampdown — it will cost owners up to \$2,500 each in fines, which they plan to appeal as a group before the city Environmental Control Board on Sept. 12 — said they never

issued such a specific list.

"It's completely fictitious; we didn't collect a list, we have no such list," said Craig Hammerman, the board's district manager.

However, the board did recently follow up on a letter it sent to the mayor's office in mid-July recommending the formation of a citywide task force to investigate and consider the impact of backyard use by bars and restaurants.

"Smith Street certainly is a unique circumstance," said Givner, pointing out the proximity of so many close-together restaurants with backyard space.

Bette Stoltz, executive director of the SBLDC, said the argu-

ment at the hearings would be selective enforcement initiated, she said, by Community Board 6, which she maintained had indeed supplied the Buildings Department with a list of restaurants that had outdoor garden seating.

"We've hired an attorney, people have contributed and so far we've got seven businesses' checks, but it looks like it might be nine or maybe 10 or 11," said Stoltz.

"The plan is to try to make everyone's hearing at the same date and time, and to demonstrate that, in fact, these were not complaint-driven, this was a selective enforcement, and it was a targeted enforcement," she said.

Givner said that while Build-

ings Department agents do not make it a practice to go door-to-door and handout certificate of occupancy infraction tickets, "that [the Smith and Court streets sweep] was a direct response to complaints issued about those specific properties."

Asked where the complaints came from, Givner said agency policy prevented her from specifying.

"There have always been issues about getting along with

your neighbors, and there've always been meetings that SBLDC held or the community board held, or the [76th Police Precinct] held, and people have always been encouraged to work together," Stoltz said. "This kind of ticketing undermined what they'd been working on with the community."

"This is the Buildings Department looking through their code to find some obscure way to nail everybody," she said.

GARDENS...

Continued from page 1

backyards.

"I think the problems of having any business in a backyard is that it's going to impact the neighbors and you just have to be attuned to what the neighbors' concerns are — you have to be a good neighbor," said Harding, who is widely considered a pioneer of the Smith Street nightlife scene for having opened his upscale French bistro Patois there in the late 1990s when there was little else on the strip to draw patrons.

Speaking from the latest entry in his mini-empire of Brooklyn eateries, Old Pioneer, a casual bar and restaurant in Red Hook that features a horseshoe ring and picnic tables in the backyard, Harding said the way his Red Hook neighbors handle noise problems is vastly different from the tactics employed on Smith Street.

"Usually they call me, or they call down to the bar or they knock on the door and say, 'Look, it's 12:30, there's a bunch of people in your backyard being really noisy,'" he said. "It's a much different business down here in Red Hook than it is on Smith Street."

Using the backyard garden, he said, was crucial to many of the small restaurants and bars on Smith Street, where he also owns with partners the Gowanus Yacht Club, a completely outdoor beer garden at the corner of Smith and President streets in Carroll Gardens.

"It's the difference between closing and opening for a lot of small business people," he said.

Harding pointed out that the commercial properties on Smith and Court streets were very small, with increasingly exorbi-

tant rents, and ever-growing competition from the constant replacement of older storefront businesses with new restaurants and bars, making winters tight.

"If you can fit an extra 30 or 40 seats in your backyard, it can be the difference between making it through the lean months, or having to close," he said.

An owner of the Brooklyn Social Club, a bar on Smith Street that was inspected by Buildings Department agents but was able to produce a "letter of no objection," according to the agency, for its backyard use, said that despite the blitz, the high-wire between neighbors and patrons was an increasingly tight one.

"The permits that we have allowed us to be open until 4 in the backyard. We close at 11 and 12 because we want to be neighborly," said the owner, who did not want his name published.

He also noted that Brooklyn Social's problems with one neighbor could not be alleviated, even with concessions.

Police came "three or four times a week over the course of a year," he said, and never once issued the business a noise violation.

The same neighbor, he said, also called the Fire Department and the State Liquor Authority, he added.

"He once sprayed water with a hose on patrons in the backyard," the bar owner said.

Other restaurants battling with the same balance of opening an upscale restaurant in a residential area said their problems were not nearly as dire.

Michel Pombet, owner of Jolie, a French restaurant on Atlantic Avenue between Hoyt and Smith streets that seats 50

in its backyard.

Sometimes, he said, they get complaints for noise that "I" theirs. He said that in one case, the notes of a trumpet player burst into the backyard area from an apartment window, and police came to the restaurant.

"The noises come from some apartments sometimes, but automatically we are to blame," he said.

Most restaurants said that closing at 10 pm or 11 pm was standard — and always by midnight.

Garrett McConnell owns Boudoir Bar, on Smith Street at Sackett Street, which got so many fines that last year she put a ballot box out front asking patrons and passersby to vote on whether the bar should stay in business. McConnell said they had received more than \$5,000 in fines based on neighbor complaints.

The vote was 57-13 to stay, said McConnell, who wrote in an e-mail to a Boerum Hill Web site: "Really, the problems lie with two types of people — those who would rather have the old Smith Street back, and are unhappy that the rents, etc., went up, and that their old neighborhood (which, when I was a realtor over 10 years ago, boarded up, somewhat dangerous and rampant with drug sellers) was better than what it is now. Then, you have the people who are NOT New Yorker's who want a residential neighborhood, like Dean Street, without commercial noise. It is a losing battle."

Harding agreed, saying that if the clampdown continues, Smith Street could kiss its cachet goodbye.

"Most of the restaurants would go out of business," said Harding. "And you'll find you'll end up with 99-cent stores, and stores selling tube socks."

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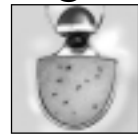
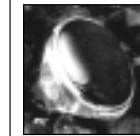
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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 27, 2005



'Narrows' escape

Simultaneous concerts set to rock Coney Island's KeySpan Park and SI Yankees' ballpark

By Tristan O'Donnell
for The Brooklyn Papers

When trying to come up with a venue for the city's biggest concerts, it's doubtful that anyone would consider either Brooklyn's or Staten Island's minor league stadiums as the most suitable of backdrops.

And certainly no one would have ever thought that the two boroughs would hold them ... simultaneously! But then again, "Across the Narrows" isn't your typical concert event.

On Oct. 1 and Oct. 2, Beck and the Pixies will inaugurate the two-day modern rock affair at Coney Island's KeySpan Park, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones, while on Staten Island, The Killers and Oasis do the honors at the home of the Staten Island Yankees, the Richmond County Bank Ballpark.

What better way to get set for the fall season than with one of the coolest concerts of the year? The concert, sponsored by Sony Playstation, boasts a big bill of critically acclaimed staples in the world of alternative and indie rock. On Saturday in Brooklyn, Gang of Four, Built to Spill, Rilo Kiley, Death from Above

MUSIC

Playstation presents the "Across the Narrows" concerts at KeySpan Park (Surf Avenue at West 17th Street in Coney Island) and Richmond County Bank Ballpark (79 Richmond Terrace on Bay Street in Staten Island) on Oct. 1 and Oct. 2 at noon. \$55 tickets are on sale now. A limited number of discounted passes, good for any two shows, are available at \$100. VIP tickets are \$250 and include a ticket to one show, seating in a VIP viewing area and admission to an on-site VIP lounge and to the VIP after-party at Irving Plaza in Manhattan and an "Across the Narrows" event gift. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.dailysun.com, www.acrossthenarrows.com or call (800) 431-3462.

1979, Mando Diao, and Nine Black Alps are scheduled to appear with the Pixies. An equally stacked lineup can be expected to precede Beck on Sunday in KeySpan Park: Belle & Sebastian, The Polyphonic Spree, The Raveonettes, Gang Gang Dance, Whirlwind Heat and a to-be-announced special guest.

Separated by the Narrows section of the New York Bay, each concert will kick off at noon on both days, simultaneously in both ballparks for a total of four concerts. (For the



Batter up: Beck (above) and Belle & Sebastian (top left) will perform at KeySpan Park on Oct. 2 as part of the weekend-long "Across the Narrows" concert series.

lowdown on the Staten Island ballpark lineup, visit www.acrossthenarrows.com.)

Asked why the shows were being staged simultaneously, Jim Glancy, president of Ron Delsner Presents, the event's promoter, said simply, "We thought it was a cool thing to do."

"How do we make it different and interesting and get people talking?" said Glancy. "This is the one city in the country that can do it, and we're gonna do it."

In the last several years, Coney Island has begun to attract both indie and mainstream acts, from the Village Voice's yearly indie extravaganza, the Siren Festival, to sold-out appearances by Pish Dink and an upcoming performance by the White Stripes on Sept. 24 and 25.

Glancy called Brooklyn a suitable place to watch music for the "urban" and "adventurous" listener. He said that music fans needn't look very far for new and exciting

acts, and there will be several up-and-coming bands at the two-day "Across the Narrows" extravaganza.

"We've tried to mix in bands that we've worked with in the past. In addition to that, some bands that people aren't as familiar with who I'm sure in the next two or three years may well be headlining their own shows," said Glancy.

In between acts, if concert-goers are experiencing an overload of rock, they can look no further than the Playstation booths that will be available all day and night with Playstation 2's and the recently unveiled PSP systems.

But don't expect to find fried food and tattoo stands like at most big-budget indie rock fests. "We're kind of deconstructing the festival," explained Glancy. "This is focused on music. There aren't multiple stages, there aren't falafel stands."

Just drums across the Narrows.

witness as many talented candidates as possible. And we were happy that at the end of the search we had a winner in Michael. The board met [Aug. 11] to adopt and approve his appointment."

The orchestra has been leaderless since the beginning of last season, as guest conductors (including Spano, who announced his resignation as music director in the spring of 2004) took to the podium for all concerts during its 50th anniversary season. Among these was Christie, a 31-year-old conductor originally from Buffalo, who led the musicians in an April concert featuring the world premiere of a work by Brooklyn native Jennifer Hudson.

See **CHRISTIE** on page 10

BOOKS

Higher ed

Brooklyn College made The Princeton Review's annual list of "Top 10 Best Value Colleges" in the country for the second year in a row and will appear in the 2006 edition of its publication, "America's Best Value Colleges," as the seventh-ranked school in the nation.

"The award is a source of tremendous pride for us," said Ellen Belon, Brooklyn College's dean of undergraduate studies. "It's tremendous national recognition. We are no longer the best kept secret in town."

One of the reasons that Brooklyn College — at 2900 Bedford Ave. at Avenue H in Midwood — has been named one of the best bargain schools in the country is the institution's commitment to its students and their education, Belon said. "The honors are nice, but we don't necessarily focus on them," she said. "We focus on our own goals, which are to maintain academic quality, to orient all of our programs around the students and to remain an integral part of Brooklyn. If the awards come because we are doing these things, well, then that's great."

The 10 schools named in the 2006 "Top 10 Best Value Colleges" were chosen based on institutional data — including undergraduate academics, costs and financial aid — as well as student opinion surveys. These schools, according to the Princeton Review, "offer outstanding academics and enroll good students who are happy with the education they are receiving, and, additionally — and more importantly — do not have to mortgage their futures because their school is charging them way too much."

"America's Best Value Colleges," by Eric Owens and the staff of The Princeton Review (Random House, \$15.95) is available at the Brooklyn College Bookstore (Campus Road at East 27th Street, (718) 951-5150).

—Eleanor Gorenstein

CINEMA

'Bug's life

After screenings at Sundance, New Directors/New Films and the Cannes film festivals, Phil Morrison's feature, "Junebug," finally opened at the Brooklyn Heights Cinema on June 26.

Morrison's "Junebug" begins with urban sophisticate Madeleine (Embeth Davidtz) traveling to North Carolina to meet with a folk artist, or "outsider artist," and convince him to let her represent him. While in town she and her new husband George (Alessandro Nivola) stay with George's family. For his first time, Madeleine meets his parents, his angry, jealous brother Johnny (Benjamin McKenzie) and Johnny's hugely pregnant wife Ashley (Amy Adams, pictured).

With her sunny demeanor and (unintentionally) hilarious quizzing of Madeleine, whom she so admires, naive Ashley does her best to keep peace between the touchy matriarch Peg (Celia Weston) and the newest daughter-in-law.

Adams, whose previous credits include Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me If You Can," won an acting award for her amazing, heartwarming performance in "Junebug" at this year's Sundance fest. Don't miss your chance this weekend to see what the fuss has been about.

The Brooklyn Heights Cinema is located at 70 Henry St. between Cranberry and Orange streets. For screening times and ticket prices, call (718) 596-7070.

—Lisa J. Curtis

FESTIVAL

Backstage tour

If you've ever wondered where that toe-tapping, booty-shaking pan music comes from, or went slack-jawed over the artistry of those towering costumes and floats, the Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment is offering a behind-the-scenes tour of the making of the West Indian American Day Carnival.

On Saturday, Aug. 27, from 3 pm to 6 pm, guide Horace Morancie will take his tourists to see the preparations for the parade which marches down Eastern Parkway each Labor Day. Visit the costume makers, pan makers and players and sample Caribbean cuisine.

Meet in front of the Tropical Paradise restaurant at Utica Avenue and Avenue D in East Flatbush. The fee is \$11 non-members, \$9 BCUE members, \$8 seniors and students with ID. For more information, call (718) 788-8200 ext. 208 or visit www.bcue.org.

—Lisa J. Curtis



At the podium: Michael Christie, who conducted the Brooklyn Philharmonic's April concert (pictured), succeeds Robert Spano as music director of the orchestra.

Maestro chosen

Brooklyn Philharmonic introduces Michael Christie as new music director

By Kevin Filipksi
for The Brooklyn Papers

A long last, the Brooklyn Philharmonic has chosen its new music director.

Prior to the Philharmonic's recent announcement that conductor

Michael Christie would become its music director beginning with the 2005-2006 season, the organization's search for Robert Spano's replacement was moving along exactly as planned, according to the orchestra's chief executive officer, Catherine Cahill.

"It was a very deliberate, very focused plan to find a replacement once Robert informed us of his departure, and we had ample time to have a well-thought-through strategy," Cahill explained in an exclusive interview with GO Brooklyn. "We had a lot of opportunity to

BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: DUMBO

Almondine

85 Water St. at Dock Street, (718) 797-5026, (Cash only) Pastries: \$1.50-\$4 sandwiches: \$6. ★ All baking is done on the premises at this European-style patisserie, owned by chocolatier Jacques Torres (whose chocolate factory is across the street) and Hervé Poussot. Sinfully rich desserts include cheesecake on a cookie crisp with fresh fruit, the "macaron" (chocolate sponge cake, chocolate mousse, crème brûlée and coconut in a chocolate shell), and various cookies and pastries. Baguette sandwiches change daily, ranging from prosciutto, mozzarella and roasted peppers to apples and brie — or try one of the quiches. Cakes for special occasions can be made to order, and some cakes are available in the showcase on Saturdays. Closed on Tuesdays for the summer, but open seven days a week beginning the first week of September.

Bubby's Pie Co.

1 Main St. at Plymouth Street, (718) 222-0666 (Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.95-\$15.95. ★ Bubby's, a TriBeCa staple, has done a good job of making a second home in Brooklyn. Since October 2003, chef-owner Ron Silver has been whipping up comfort foods, from meatloaf and gravy to St. Louis-style spare ribs, with loads of sides including macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes and collard greens. It's impossible to leave Bubby's without trying a slice of any one of their homemade pies, after all, that's how they got their name. Sour cherry, whiskey apple and banana cream pies are just some of their specialties. Kids eat free on Sunday nights. Bubby's Brooklyn also offers a play area for kids as well as a general store selling baked goods and T-shirts. Private party space available; for more information contact Julia Ribart at jribart@bubbys.com. Think you got what it takes to make your own mouth-watering pie? Come to Bubby's on Sept. 17, from noon to 4 p.m. for the annual Pie Social. Bring your own pies to be sampled by others while you indulge in others' pies. Sign up at the restaurant or online by e-mailing nonribart@bubbys.com. Piebakers pay \$5, and all others pay \$25 to sample. Bubby's is open Thursday through Tuesday for lunch and dinner, and for brunch on Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Five Front

5 Front St. at Old Fulton Street, (718) 625-5559 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14-\$25. ★ Park Slope's 13th Street Bar & Grill talent — co-owners Patty Lowry and chef Paul Vico — score big in DUMBO, complete with warm service and a buzzing bar. Favorites like Prince Edward Island mussels in a light curry broth appear alongside other menu items like grilled rib-eye steak dusted with smoked paprika or the unsalted shrimp ravioli in a saffron sauce. Vico also serves one of the best burgers around: Five Front offers lots of outdoor seating on its rear deck, weather permitting. Brunch on weekends, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dinner served Mondays and Wednesdays through Saturdays. Closed Tuesdays.

Front Street Pizza

60 Front St. at Washington Street, (718) 875-3700 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Plain slice: \$1.85; 18-inch round plain pie: \$12.50. Although the name says "pizza," Front Street has just about everything to satisfy your hunger, from salads and calzones to burgers and hellos to espressos and decaf cappuccinos. Whole breakfast platters are available for \$3.65 and include choices of pancakes, French toast, eggs, hashbrowns, toast, bacon, ham, sausage and cheese and come with your choice of coffee or tea. Daily lunch specials range from chicken caesar to meatloaf. They even offer a salad pizza topped with lettuce, tomatoes, black olives, onions and oil and vinegar. The deli counter offers a full range of sandwiches. Also, the best coffee (16-ounce for \$1.50 and 32-ounce for \$2.50) is a bargain. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Grimaldi's

19 Old Fulton St. at Front Street, (718) 858-4300 (Cash only) www.grimaldi'sbrooklyn.com. Large pizzas: \$14 and up. The lengthy lines at owner Frank Cio's award-winning pizza parlor are as talked about as the pies themselves. But if you don't mind waiting, the cool oven pizzas are among the best in the city. Lined with framed photos of the Rat Pack, this homage to Sinatra changed its name from Pat's in 1996 to avoid confusion with another restaurant in East Harlem. The pizza, however, hasn't changed a bit. Try a hand-tossed with fresh mozzarella, or add a few toppings, like sweet, roasted red peppers or sundried tomatoes. The pizza sauce is to die for. Grimaldi's doesn't accept reservations, and you can't buy pizza by the slice. But you'll be lucky if you can spot at just one or two slices away. Open 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Friday from 11:30 a.m. to midnight, Saturdays from noon to midnight, and Sundays from noon to 11 p.m.

Miso

38 Main St. at Water Street, (718) 858-6386 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.95-\$15. ★ Miso's chef and co-owner, known to all as Zeo, specializes in the cuisine of the Shikoku area in southern Japan, also known as the "Magical Islands." For starters, try a bowl of eggplant with ginger sauce, served with jammy rice, or the traditional miso soup. Tender salt-and-pepper shrimp or the Shikoku tuna are recommended as main courses. According to GO Brooklyn dining critic Tina Barry, "Shikoku tuna" is worth the trip over. "Not only does Zeo create his own spices, he is also available to advise customers on pairing the perfect sake to each entree. Free delivery in Brooklyn. Open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, dinner only on Sundays.

★ = Full review available at

Brooklyn
papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



A selection of sakes at Miso.

Pete's Downtown

2 Water St. at Old Fulton Street, (718) 858-3510, www.petesdowntown.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$18-\$26. Come early to ensure a table with a divine view (available at both the outside cafe or inside the restaurant). The backdrop of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Manhattan skyline off Fulton Ferry Landing sets the stage for a wonderful meal. Try the post-dishes stuffed with prosciutto, mozzarella and basil, topped with a Marala wine sauce, served with a vegetable and potato rosette, an interesting fried potato basket filled with creamy mashed potato. There's also a warm goat cheese salad, with seasonal greens and walnut vinaigrette, and Linguine Portofino with fresh salmon, plum tomatoes, red onions, arugula and extra-virgin olive oil. Not only is this a "landmark restaurant" due to its extraordinary location at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge, but four generations of the same family have been serving up great food here since 1894. Conveniences include free valet parking and a private party room. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner. Closed Mondays.

Rice

81 Washington St. at Front Street, (718) 222-9880, www.riceny.com (Cash only) Entrees: \$5-\$14. Gabrielle Blecher, a manager at Rice, described her restaurant's cuisine as "anything to do with rice." Can't argue with that. Boasting specialty rice infused with cilantro, parsley and sprouts or instead, steamed in coconut milk, the menu at this 4-year-old restaurant is largely rice-inspired but also features an eclectic mix of influences including Jamaican, Lebanese and Thai, not to mention great tamales. Blecher said the chicken labab is one of the most popular entrees, but the Vietnamese lemongrass chicken salad has been turning heads, too. Fresh juices, including watermelon, are available for the summer. Owners David Seleg and Peter Lawrence won a Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce award for the restaurant's intimate, dimly lit interiors, which they designed themselves. Outside dining available as well on an adjacent deck. Open daily for lunch and dinner and for brunch on weekends, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

River Cafe

11 Water St. at Old Fulton Street, (718) 222-5200, www.rivercafe.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Three-course dinner: \$78; six-course tasting menu: \$95. ★

This 28-year-old fine dining institution features the most breathtaking river view of Manhattan, making it a favorite date destination. The Tavern on the Green-esque twinkling lights in the trees out front, and bouquets of fragrant flowers inside are nice touches, too. Executive chef Steve Stein offers three-course or six-course tasting menus for dinner. Steelman pairs a Colorado rack of lamb with house-made merguez sausages, caramelized halibut and lavender flower glaze, and black sea bass with poached artichoke hearts, preserved lemon vinaigrette, artichoke ravioli and marinated oven-roasted potatoes. For dessert, try the chocolate marquette Brooklyn Bridge, which features a handmade chocolate brick standing tall in a terrine of roasted hazelnut served with Tahitian vanilla bean ice cream. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Brunch is served on weekends from noon to 3 p.m. Sidewalk cafe seating and valet parking are available.

Superfine

126 Front St. at Pearl Street, (718) 243-9005 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9-\$20. ★ Grill-mistress Laura Taylor prepares each dish to order, so be ready to wait. Her dinner menu, a chalkboard, changes its offerings daily. Taylor offers entree-sized salads, vegetarian, fish, pasta and meat dishes made with organic produce and organic meat from prime butchers and fish from Long Island City's Wild Edibles. Sunday features a Southwestern-style brunch and live bluesgrass music. For those of you pool sharks, Superfine offers a free pool table to hone your skills. Open Tuesday through Friday for lunch and dinner, and for dinner-only on Saturdays. Brunch is served on Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., followed by dinner from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Toro

1 Front St. at Old Fulton Street, (718) 625-0300 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$18.50-\$63. Executive chef Dudley Nieto and sushi chef Richard Fong create Spanish and Japanese fusion food in this newly opened tapas and sushi lounge. Specialties include the churrasco (grilled skirt steak) with chimichurri sauce and the double-cut pork chop, marinated in brine, and served with wasabi mashed potatoes. "Spaniards" ballroom available for private parties. There is outdoor seating on the patio. Open Wednesday for dinner only and lunch and dinner Thursday through Sunday. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more information, go to www.brooklynpapers.com or on the Web. If your restaurant isn't listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at Curtis@BrooklynPapers.com.

Back to school

Soft lunchboxes from Fort Greene's Target and DUMBO's Half Pint have lots of class



Angel and insect

(Above) "Crawlers" insulated lunchbox by Arctic Zone (\$9.99) available in caterpillar (above) and snail shapes. Caterpillar has embroidered features and 3-D antennae. Includes reusable 6.5-ounce ice pack. At Target Atlantic Terminal (139 Flatbush Ave. in Fort Greene, (718) 290-1109).



Put the top down

(Above) "Convertible" insulated lunchbox by Arctic Zone (\$9.99) is available in gray and pink. Includes detachable top food separation pouch, front zippered pocket for extra storage, shoulder strap as well as carry handle. Includes a removable sandwich-size plastic container and reusable 5-ounce ice pack. At Target Atlantic Terminal.



So Warhol

(Below) "Hello Kitty" insulated lunchbox by Sanrio (\$7.99) has glitter-flecked sides and double zipper. Includes sport bottle. At Target Atlantic Terminal.

— Lisa J. Curtis

* Prices accurate as of Aug. 16, 2005.

Colombian expedition



"It's a bright and colorful place, much like the Andean," said George Constantino, who, with partner Fuid Ali, owns the new Park Slope restaurant, Bogota Latin Bistro. If the long lines of hopeful diners on Friday and Saturday evenings are any indication, this month-old bistro is already becoming a neighborhood favorite. The spacious and sunlit dining area, which seats about 70, boasts hardwood floors and exposed brick walls. The industrial-chic decor is softened with colorful murals, "a tribute to Latin culture," according to Constantino. The mood is set with Latin jazz, rock and pop playing in the background. The cheerfully decorated outdoor garden seats about 30, and the owners plan to enclose it during the winter months.

The inspiration for the restaurant, and chef Roberto Garcia's menu, was a trip to Bogota, Ali's hometown. Constantino, 29, who is Costa Rican and Greek, and Ali, 40, traveled there in January 2003. While visiting Ali's family, the two Brooklyn Heights residents explored other places in South America and Central America and picked up traditional dishes from along the way.

"Our restaurant is a tribute to South and Central America," said Constantino, who kept a 2-year Web log, recording the progress of Bogota Latin Bistro, leading up to the grand opening. One of the most requested items on what Constantino calls, the "Pan-Latin" menu, is the typical rural Colombian dish, the "bundeja paisa" (Spanish for "mountain platter"), a serving of grilled steak, "chicharrón" (fried pork skin), "arepa" (white corn-

meal mixed with yellow rice, carrots, red peppers, cilantro and onions, which is served with avocado and a side of black beans, is a close second.

For vegetarians, GO Brooklyn has sampled and recommends the "torta portobella," a sandwich with "queso fresco" (a popular Mexican cheese with a stringy texture) and portobella mushroom, garnished with lettuce, tomatoes, red onions and chipotle mayo and served on a poppy seed bun. All sandwiches come with french fries and a mixed green salad. (The main dishes are served with rice, beans and a choice of one side from a wide-ranging selection that includes fried yuca, cilantro mashed potatoes, garlic spinach and "tropical coleslaw.")

Bogota Latin Bistro's fully stocked bar is making a name for itself with its signature coconuts mojito. It's \$8 a glass, but this mixture of coconut cream and coconut milk, brightened with mint and lime juice, is so tasty, it might be worth investing in a \$36 pitcher. Or you may opt for the fruit-of-the-week flavors, such as strawberry or watermelon mojitos featured last week, or the always available mango, orange, guava and passion fruit.

Bogota Latin Bistro (141 Fifth Ave. at Lincoln Place in Park Slope) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$12-\$19. The restaurant is open for dinner only from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. from Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and until 2 a.m. (kitchen closes at 1 a.m.) on Friday and Saturday. Closed Tuesdays. For more information call (718) 230-3805 or visit www.BogotaBistro.com.

— Aja Grodzanic

meal cake), rice, beans, fried egg, "maduros" (sweet plantains) and avocado.

"It's a national dish," said Constantino. "The best offering one would serve to friends and family."

"Arroz con pollo" (rice with chicken), a combination of shredded chick-



Where to GO

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

SAT, AUG 27

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BOAT TOUR: Brooklyn Historical Society takes a tour of Brooklyn's working waterfront. \$20, \$18 members, reduced fares for children. 11:05 a.m. Meet at Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. Call for reservations. (718) 742-1969.

BIRDWATCHING: Audubon Center hosts a cruise on the Lullwater, a scenic habitat for flora and fauna. \$10, \$6 kids. Noon. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. Free.

BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment offers a look at the preparations for next week's West Indian Labor Day Carnival. Visit costume makers, pan makers and players and some Caribbean restaurants. \$11, \$9 members, \$8 seniors and students. 3 pm to 6 pm. Meet at corner of Ulica Avenue and Avenue D. (718) 789-8500.

WALKING TOUR: Mauricio Lorence hosts a tour of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25, 2 pm to 5 pm. New York Marriott Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

HISTORIC GRAVESEND: Brooklyn Historical Society takes a walk. \$15, \$10 members. 2 pm. Meet outside the F train station, McDonald Avenue and Avenue U. (718) 222-4111.

TWILIGHT WALK: Big Onion Tours takes a walk over the Brooklyn Bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 students. Meet at 5 pm at Broadway and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1090.

PERFORMANCE

STREET OPERA: Theater for the New City presents "Social Insecurity," an opera for the streets. 2 pm. Prospect Park Concert Grove, enter at Lincoln Road off Ocean Avenue in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens. (212) 254-1109. Free.

SHAKESPEARE ON THE WATER: presented by a young troupe. 3 pm. Empire Fulton Ferry State Park, enter at Water and Dock streets in DUMBO. (646) 369-0442. Free.

BRICK THEATER: presents "Some of The Best of The Moral Values Festival." \$10, 4 pm. 575 Metropolitan Ave. (212) 868-4444.

BARGEMUSIC: Classical music concert features an all List program. \$35, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2063.

CHILDREN

MILES OF TILES: NY Transit Museum offers a mosaic-making workshop for kids, ages 4 to 16. \$5 adults, \$3 kids 3 to 17. 1 pm. Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street. (718) 694-1600.

ARTY FACTS: Brooklyn Museum invites kids to "Stories Art" series. Today: "Late Summer Harvest." Kids are invited to learn about the first fruits of harvest. \$8 adults, \$4 students and seniors, free for members. 4 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents Friendship Fashion. Come with a friend and make a friendship bracelet to exchange. \$4, free for members. 2 pm to 3 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

STORY HOUR: Ezra Jack Keats story hour in Prospect Park. 2 pm to 3 pm. Imagination Playground, Prospect Park, enter at Ocean Avenue at Lincoln Road. (718) 965-8999. Free.

OTHER

GREENMARKET: Third annual produce market in Fort Greene Park. 8 am until park closes. Dekalb Avenue at Washington Park. (718) 907-4403.

FASHION MARKET: Brooklyn Designers Showcase features emerging designers of handcrafted merchandise. 10:30 am to 3 pm. 157 Montague St. (718) 763-7654.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "The Best of the New Fest." Today: "Furry Girls," a shorts program, at 2 pm; "After the End," a shorts program, at 4:30 pm; "Bob" (2005) at 6:50 pm; "Zona Rosa" (2005) at 9:15 pm. \$10, \$7 students. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

ROOFTOP FILMS: presents The British Connection. \$8. Music at 8 pm. film at 9 pm. Automotive High School, 50 Bedford Ave. (877) 716-1912.

VOX POP: Shawn Fogel reads from his works. 55, 9 pm. 1022 Cortelyou Road. (718) 940-2084.



Photo by R. Smith

Free play: Theater for the New City presents "Social Insecurity" at Prospect Park's concert grove on Aug. 27 at 2 pm.

SUN, AUG 28

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BATTLE WEEK: The Battle of Brooklyn of 1776 is commemorated with a march by the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee from the main gate of Green-Wood Cemetery to the graves of Madeline Tonne, wife of Irish patriot Theobald Wolf Tonne, and to the grave of John Gallagher, historian and author. 11:30 am. Also, commemorative ceremony for the Battle of Long Island. 2 pm. Main gate of Green-Wood Cemetery. Fifth Avenue at 25th Street. (718) 852-8235. Free.

BUS TOUR: Learn about Battle of Brooklyn during a bus tour conducted by Paul Ruff, of Paul Ruff Walks. \$40, \$35 members. 1 pm. Meet at the Old Stone House, JJ Byrne Park, Fifth Avenue and Third Street. (718) 768-3195.

PERFORMANCE

BARGEMUSIC: Classical music concert features an all-List program. \$35, 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2063.

CONCERT: The Jacobs Brothers perform gospel music. Donation appreciated. 6:30 pm. Norwegian Christian Home, 1270 67th St. (718) 238-2991.

BRICK THEATER: "Some of The Best of The Moral Values Festival." 4 pm. See Sat., Aug. 27.

OTHER

FARMER'S MARKET: Locally grown fruits and vegetables and handmade food for sale. 11 am to 5 pm. JJ Byrne Park, Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street. (718) 923-4837.

SUNDAY CHAT: Clinton Hill Art Gallery offers "I Remember When..." a talk with Joan Vincent and Margaret Vincent, Clinton Hill residents since 1930. 2 pm to 4 pm. 154A Vanderbilt Ave. (718) 852-0227. Free.

GARDEN WORKSHOP: at Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum. 2 pm to 4 pm. 5816 Clarendon Road. (718) 629-5400. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "The Best of the New Fest." Today: "Left Lane" (2005) at 2 pm; "29th and Gay" (2005) at 4:30 pm; "The D Word" (2005) at 6:50 pm; "Good Boys" (2005) at 9:15 pm. \$10, \$7 students. 2 pm. Also, "Little Men" (2005) at 4:30 pm. Also, "Strange Fruit" (2004) at 6:50 pm. Additionally, "The Aggressive" (2005) at 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

FILM: Cafe Steinhof presents "Saturday Night Fever" (1977). 10:30 pm. 422 Seventh Ave. (718) 369-7776. Free.

Mon, Aug 29

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Lonely Heart: Philippe Garrel." Today: "Night Wind" (1999). \$10, \$7 students. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

NETWORKING: Business networking meeting hosted by Black Business

Circle. Topic: "Growing Your Business Using Technology." \$25, \$15 members. Includes light refreshments. 7:15 pm. 138 South Oxford St. (718) 277-5588.

LECTURE SERIES: David Bay Seres with Rabbi Aaron Raskin in a discussion of "The Kabbalah of the 10 Commandments." Tonight: "Do Not Commit Adultery." 8 pm to 9 pm. 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4840. Free.

CASTING CALL: Documentary-type show by The Learning Channel for kids who eat too much junk food and watch too much TV. Kids ages 4 to 12 invited to apply. Call hotline. (917) 362-9158.

Tues, Aug 30

Tax Free Week

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Lonely Heart: Philippe Garrel." Today: "The Birth of Love" (1993). \$10, \$7 students. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

FAMILY DAY: Bay Ridge Bensonhurst Park Task Force hosts an event of karaoke, games and prizes. 7 pm. McKinley Park, Fort Hamilton Parkway and 75th Street. (718) 236-7547. Free.

Weds, Aug 31

SEMINAR FOR ART: Brooklyn Arts Council offers a talk for arts organizations. Learn how to apply for and receive grants. 6 pm to 8 pm. Skylight Gallery, 1468 Fulton St. (718) 625-0080. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents its Favorites series with a screening of "Barry Lyndon" (1975). \$10, \$7 students. 7 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

CONCERT: Concluding summer concert at Asse Levy Seaside Park. Tonight: Vime, Talenco and Chinese and Ian Finkel. 7:30 pm. West Fifth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 609-1912. Free.

MUSIC: Singer-songwriter Mary Pena performs. \$5, 8:30 pm. Vox Pop, 1022 Cortelyou Road. (718) 940-2084.

Thurs, Sept 1

BAMCINEMATEK: presents The Haitian Film Festival. Today: "Justice" (2004). Q & A with directors follow screening. 9:30 pm. Also, "The Agronomist" (2004). 6:50 pm. Q & A follows. \$10, \$7 students. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

BENEFIT: Brooklyn Cyclones and the Staten Island Yankees host the Twin Towers II benefit. \$50 includes food

and drink. 5 pm till game time. Peggy O'Neils restaurant, Keapsan Park, Surf Avenue and West 17th Street in Coney Island. (646) 825-1038.

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play against Staten Island. \$5 general admission, \$10 box seats. 7 pm. Keapsan Park, Surf Avenue and West 17th Street. (718) 507-1900.

Fri, Sept 2

Labor Day Weekend begins

BAMCINEMATEK: presents The Haitian Film Festival. Today: "Of Gods and Men" (2002). Q & A follows screening. 4:30 pm. Also, "The Agronomist" (2004). 6:50 pm. Q & A follows. Also, "Justice" (2004). 9:30 pm. Q & A follows. \$10, \$7 students. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

BRASSET: In advance of the West Indian American Day Parade, Brooklyn Museum sponsors a music program featuring brass ensembles. \$40, \$5, 8 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 467-1797.

MOVIES ON A ROOF: Rooftop Films presents "Bigger Than France: Little Film from Texas." \$8, 9 pm. Music by NYC subway musicians precedes film. Automotive High School, 50 Bedford Ave. (877) 786-1912.

SAT, SEPT 3

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

WALKING TOUR: Mauricio Lorence hosts a tour of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25, 2 pm to 5 pm. New York Marriott Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

PERFORMANCE

SHAKESPEARE ON THE WATER: presented by a young troupe. 3 pm. Empire Fulton Ferry State Park, enter at Water and Dock streets. (646) 369-0442. Free.

STEELBAND COMPETITION: To celebrate the West Indian American Day Parade, The Brooklyn Museum hosts a competition. \$25, \$30, 8 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 467-1797.

CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S PARADE: Annual children's West Indian American Day Parade. 10 am. St. John's Place and Kingston Avenue. March continues to Brooklyn Children's Museum. (718) 467-1797. Free.

CAROUSEL: Ride the Prospect Park Carousel. \$1 per ride. Noon to 6 pm. Children's Corner, near Flatbush and Ocean avenues. (718) 282-7788.

OTHER

GREENMARKET: Third annual produce market in Fort Greene Park. Dekalb Avenue at Washington Park. 8 am until park closes. (718) 907-4403.

FLEA MARKET: hosted by Church of the Holy Spirit. 9 am to 4 pm. 8117 Bay Parkway. (718) 837-0412.

FASHION MARKET: Brooklyn Designers Showcase features emerging designers of handcrafted merchandise. 10:30 am to 3 pm. 157 Montague St. (718) 763-7654.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents The Haitian Film Festival. Today: "Santo Domingo Blues" (2003). 2 pm and 6:50 pm. Also, "Young Rebels" (2005). 4:30 pm. Also, "One Love" (2003). 9:15 pm. \$10, \$7 students. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

Sun, Sept 4

PERFORMANCE

SHAKESPEARE ON THE WATER: presented by a young troupe. 3 pm. Empire Fulton Ferry State Park, Water at Dock streets. (646) 369-0442. Free.

DIMANCHE GRAS: Winners of West Indian carnival competitions perform. \$30, \$35, 8 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 467-1797.

OTHER

FARMER'S MARKET: Locally grown fruits and vegetables and handmade food for sale. 11 am to 5 pm. JJ Byrne Park, Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street. (718) 923-4837.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents The Haitian Film Festival. Today: "Justice" (2004). Q & A with directors follow screening. 9:30 pm. Also, "The Agronomist" (2004). 6:50 pm. Q & A follows. \$10, \$7 students. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

BENEFIT: Brooklyn Cyclones and the Staten Island Yankees host the Twin Towers II benefit. \$50 includes food

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Where to GO**, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

Ten tips to be remembered

Of the questions I've received from readers over the years, one of my favorites is from a mom who asked, "How do you get a 29-month-old and a 17-month-old to play on their own?"

Short answer: "You don't." The mother was surprised to discover her girls wanted and needed to toddle about near her. Some questions don't belong here: "How do I get my divorced son to move his junk out so I can sell my house?"

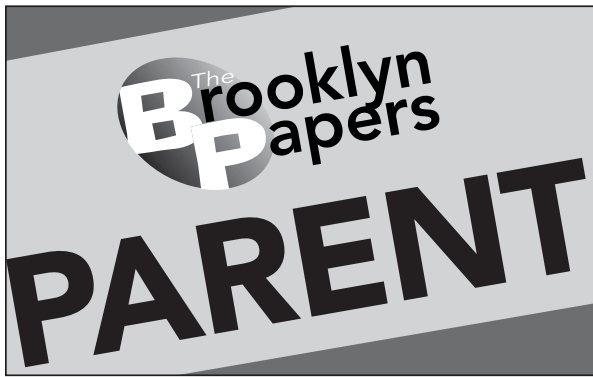
Kids are forever making up new twists on old battles: bed-time, potty-training, food. And then there are the triumphs, where answers from hundreds of experts and other parents get readers in a mode of problem-solution, not of behavior-punishment.

This column, and my son, are about to turn 16. Corny but true, I find myself more often wanting to tell parents that the time with their children goes by so quickly, or can even be taken away. Enjoy the moments.

Just a typically developing teenager, my son prefers not to show up with his parents, either in person or in print. Nor does he seek our advice.

But, oh, I do hear from others, like daughters-in-law who hope a parenting columnist will resolve family disputes over discipline or holiday schedules. Or grandmothers who want me to fix their grandchildren's horrendous table manners.

This is serious business, helping families not feel so alone, guiding children through grief, mental health issues, social bullying, learning problems, divorce. Then there's the lighter but still important side of the parenting spectrum: The mother befuddled about her 4-year-old's habit of sucking a plush animal's leg to go to sleep. Like so many parents, she got conflicting advice from her dentist, her pediatrician and her friends, and sought clarity through my column. She had already resorted to cutting off the plush animal's legs and giving some of the toys away. But to no avail. Her daughter simply picked another from her ample stash. A Dallas, Texas, psychologist offered



Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flagler

simple advice for her and all of us:

1. **Ask yourself:** Does the habit really need to be addressed?

That leads to my Top 10 list of parenting tips, even in an increasingly impersonal, tech-savvy world.

2. **Pick your battles:** You'll hear that over and over, but it's tried and true at all ages, even with spouses, when so much does need to be addressed.

3. **Understand basic child development:** I started teaching preschool four years ago, and what the books say plays out in life. Children thrive on routine, and really do stop crying as soon as their parents leave the classroom. And they fall apart at pick-up time: "Lucky us!" as one mom wrote me years ago.

4. **Say what you mean, mean what you say:** Parents who enforce "no" with little guilt or emotion tend to get the behavior they're looking for. Say "yes" as often as you can, because there is so much you must prohibit. Skip requests and give clear directions: "It's time to go. Here are your shoes."

5. **No debates:** Avoid pleading and cajoling. Kids turn into lawyers at an early age when their parents over-explain. After one key phrase, and get on with the joy of loving him, snuggling him, admiring the way he nibbles his toes. Think of discipline as what the word actually means, to teach. When you're attached to each other, your child will want to please you.

6. **Be with your kids:** When you promise them time, be there. Time into them, not your cell phone. I learned that the hard way when my son asked me: "What's the point of your being in a home office when you're always in there working?"

7. **Boost your confidence:** Educate yourself through reliable sources you believe in. Take some and leave some advice. Remind yourself, "I am the person for this 24/7 job. I cannot give up."

8. **Eat dinner together:** As many nights a week as possible, sit down and eat the same food at the same table. Hold a "ball-park night" now and then, where manners don't matter.

9. **Try a countdown:** Take a deep breath and count to 10. You'll feel more relaxed, and your child will have time to stop whatever annoying thing

he's doing without you nagging him. (This works about nine times out of 10.)

10. **Be your child's top expert:** Know your child better than anyone else does. Be his advocate, but not a helicopter parent. If he wants to sleep with his blanket on the floor until it's in shreds, so be it. Surely "Pinkie" won't go off to college or down the aisle.

Can you help?

"My daughter's daughter is almost 4. She attends preschool and is very shy and will not speak when spoken to, not even a hello. Am I wrong to try to encourage her to speak when spoken to? Should an issue be made of this, or am I just an interfering grandmother?" I think she is old enough to know it is made not to speak and should learn to start responding. She is a well-adjusted, happy little girl. What is the best way to handle this situation?" — a grandmother in Virginia.

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Letter: City rushes kids to school

To the editor,

In Betsy Flagler's column of Aug. 6, she weighed the pros and cons of waiting a year to start your child in kindergarten.

Unfortunately, parents in New York City do not have the option to wait a year. If you bring your child to public school to enroll him the year he turns 6, he will be placed in the first grade. While the national trend has been to raise the kindergarten enrollment age by making the cutoff date Sept. 1 or

Oct. 1 (and most private schools in Brooklyn also have such a cutoff) the kindergarten enrollment date in New York City continues to be Dec. 31, the latest in the country.

Children in the city who are born late in the year start kindergarten younger than children elsewhere in the country. Yet children who are older can and do learn more successfully.

Studies by the U.S. Department of Education have shown that children born late in the year, before their

fifth birthday, are more likely to struggle in reading and mathematics, and more likely to be held back than older children. Boys, especially, do much better when allowed to enroll later.

New York State and New York City should allow parents the option of enrolling their child in kindergarten when they are 5 in September and not force them into the first grade before they are ready.

Eva Rogals Weiss,
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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 27th day of August, 2005, bearing the Index Number NS007055, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 807, grants me rights to Assume the name of Russell Denton White. My present name is: Russell Denton White. My present address is: 566 Greiner Avenue, #10, Brooklyn, New York 11216. My place of birth is: Mobile, Alabama. My date of birth is: September 2, 1949.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of August, 2005, bearing the Index Number NS007055, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 807, grants me rights to Assume the name of Shula Estee Valentine. My present name is: Shula Estee Valentine. My present address is: 302 Berridge Street, #7L, Brooklyn, New York 11218. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is: August 4, 1962.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 21st day of June, 2005, bearing Index Number NS007075, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York, in room 807, grants the Petitioner, Tatiana Desaine, the right effective upon compliance with the provisions of this order, to assume the name of Tatiana Desaine Santaroma. My present name is: Tatiana Desaine Santaroma. My date of birth is: January 6, 1985. The place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My present address is: 234 Kensington Street, Apt. 1, Brooklyn, NY 11237.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of August, 2005, bearing the Index Number NS007055, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 807, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Assume the name of: Olguin Allie Terranova. My present name is: Olguin Allie Terranova. My present address is: 482 Wadsworth Street, Brooklyn, New York 11221. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is: August 15, 1987.

NOTICE OF LEGAL POSTPONEMENT OF SALE
SUPERIOR COURT, KING COUNTY, NORTH GATE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., et al. Plaintiff vs. LUZ JIMENEZ, et al. Defendants. (Attorneys for Plaintiff: Raulo, Raulo & Associates, P.C., 2 Sunset Court, Suite 301, Fairfield, New York 12524, 840-897-6005) Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered herein on June 13, 2005, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at Room 201 at 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, On September 1, 2005 at 3:00 PM (P.m.) herein, located at 9730 Third Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land with the improvements thereon, more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of bid: \$40,000.31 plus interest and costs. BIDDERS: NO. 37102004, and BIDDERS: NO. 37102005. *PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A LEGAL POSTPONEMENT FOR THE SALE OF ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 4, 2005*.

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	TW	CV	1:00am	1:30am	2:00am	2:30am	3:00am	3:30am	400-900m
		67	Spectral	o/NB	Sci-Tech in TC	Musical Theatrical	Real Action	Ispatial	Community Drama
		34							
		68	Cultural & Lit	NCTV	Art & Tech	Spiritual	Miniatures	Neuro Violence	Community Drama
		56	Community Drama						
		69							
		57	Community Drama		Community Comedy		Community Drama		Community Drama
		70							

SATURDAY - Sept. 3[illegible]

TW **TIME WARNER**
CABLE
Channels 34, 35, 56, 57

CV **CABLEVISION**
Channels 67, 68, 69, 70

Dunkin' Gardens

Donut chain to replace pizzeria

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

The world's largest coffee and baked goods chain is about to see if it can grind out a niche for itself among the Italian-American mom-and-pop shops of Court Street in Carroll Gardens.

Whether the slight resemblance between a cup of Dunkin' Donuts coffee and the brew from one of 53 kinds of beans roasted in-house at D'Amico Foods down the block will amount to a hill of beans is yet to be seen.

After the influx of chain stores in neighboring Cobble Hill's strip of Court Street, careful and vigilant is the old guard in Carroll Gardens.

With chip-on-the-shoulder pride at still having some of the oldest businesses in the borough, the neighborhood stalwarts have maintained a strong sense of the old neighborhood despite a rapid gentrification over the past decade.

The donut shop will be opening at 383 Court St., in a storefront formerly occupied by Caffè Leonardo's Brick Oven Style Pizza, which closed down earlier this summer.

Peter Ungaro, one of the new franchisee's owners, said it was Joseph Trovato, who owned Leonardo's, and the building, who got tired of keeping the restaurant going. Trovato did not return calls seeking comment for this article.

"He wasn't out to sell his pizzeria," said Ungaro. "He decided he really didn't want to operate his restaurant on a daily basis."

"We were introduced, and it turned out to be a good fit for both of us," Ungaro said.

Buddy Scott, founder of the Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association, said he didn't blame Trovato, but said the deal was just further evidence of a changing dynamic in the neighborhood.

"More and more these stores come in, and it's getting



Caffè Leonardo, on Court Street and First Place in Carroll Gardens is being replaced with a Dunkin' Donuts.

less and less an Italian ethnic neighborhood," he said. "The Italian-American's themselves are moving up [and out]."

"Dunkin' Donuts is just another — bam! — change," said Scott.

The storefront, on Court Street at the corner of First Place, is already being eyed dubiously, but nobody knows quite what to think.

"It will definitely affect us," said Joan D'Amico, one of the owners of D'Amico Foods, which has been at 309 Court St. for 57 years, and which grinds its own coffee in the mornings and sells hot cups to an early work crowd.

"I don't know how good or badly it will be, but it will affect us," she said.

D'Amico, however, also noted, "I think it's a neighborhood where people are very loyal to the places they patronize now," saying she didn't imagine losing regular customers.

Frank Monteleone's Pastry Shop, now owned by former

apprentice Lenny Cristino, who started working there in 1980, when he was 13, has been at 355 Court St. since 1902.

Cristino said he was glad to see the big business coming in, and saw it as a sign of success for the block, even if they do make donuts.

"Corporate's good, corporate brings money and a different kind of clientele," said Cristino, who doesn't consider Dunkin's Donuts direct competitors with his bakery, which sells muffins, danishes, biscuits, pastry, Italian ices, and caters special events.

"I'm all for it," he said, and noting the national chain development along Court Street's northern end in Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill, added, "We already have two Starbucks on the strip. We already have Barnes and Noble. It's all corporate. It doesn't phase me, it's just different, that's all."

Scott said it was less a matter of what the shop sells as the corporate presence and what that means.

"Generally speaking, I have an aversion to all these box stores and franchises because Carroll Gardens isn't that kind of a neighborhood," he said. "By 'that kind of neighborhood,' I mean a transient sort of place where people collectively live, and come, and go, but don't really interact as neighbors."

"That's what Dunkin' Donuts represents," said Scott. "Part of the character of the neighborhood of Court Street is always the mom-and-pop store kind of thing," said Scott. "I think that's what scares people about Dunkin' Donuts. That's foreign to us. Who do you talk to?"

Ungaro, who with his brother-in-law plans to open Dunkin' Donuts in January, said the neighborhood could rest assured that the owners will be very hands-on.

"We're not going to be absentee owners," he said.

Still, Scott said, "I will do my damndest to sit down with these people and get them to do something that is culturally appropriate. I mean, not using this bright yellow-and-orange glowing sign that McDonald's and Dunkin' Donuts uses," when told about the owners' plans.

Ungaro said he was committed to designing a shop that will be respectful of the community.

"We're spending a great deal of time and money with architects and the design team to create a look that's going to not stand out, but blend in with the other businesses, and have a look that the community's going to be comfortable with because we understand it's going to be an issue," he said.

The shop will not be open 24 hours a day, he said, and will likely close at 10 pm or 11 pm. It will include a Baskin-Robbins ice cream shop, which is owned by the same parent company as the donut chain, Dunkin' Brands Inc.

Said Ungaro, "We want to come in on a friendly basis."

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Cyclones broadcaster Warner Fusselle in the Catbird Seat with his bobble-head likeness.

THERE WERE 2,501 Warner Fusselles at Keyspan Park on Sunday — two in the Catbird Seat and the remainder distributed about the yard, from the left field corner, to behind home plate, and on out to the bleachers.

Twenty-five hundred Warner Fusselle bobble-head dolls were given out Sunday night at Keyspan Park, and the Cyclones radio announcer, himself the owner of an extensive bobble-head collection — from the Beatles to baseball announcer Ernie Harwell to Roger Maris to the Rolling Stones — sat in his broadcasting spot, perched next to his own bobbing image.

The Fusselle bobble-head features the announcer not only with a microphone in his left hand, but with an umbrella in his right hand. Keyspan Park denizens know that Fusselle usually rigs a series of umbrellas in the Catbird Seat when it's raining.

The extremely detailed replica includes Fusselle's patented red and blue pen in the shirt pocket and his loafers — identical on the man and the figure.

The bobble-head was developed over the course of several months. After initial photos of Fusselle were taken, the four stages of the bobble-head were each sent to Kevin Mahoney, the Cyclones' assistant general manager, who shepherded the bobble-head project toward final approval.

The attention to detail certainly pleased Fusselle. "Because I'm such a collector, I can't think of anything that would be a cooler experience for me, because I save announcer bobble-heads," he said.

Back in the 1960s, Fusselle collected the more generic bobble-heads of the time, including one for each major league team.

"I remember after I had gotten each major league team, I set them up in my house and a friend and his wife were coming over to see the bobble-heads," said Fusselle. "My goal was to see if I could get them to all bobble at the same time when they walked into the room, and that's what I did."

BEFORE HIS ANNOUNCING career, which included hosting "This Week in Baseball" on television and doing the radio broadcasts for the American Basketball League's Virginia Squires, Fusselle was a pitcher and center fielder in his high school for the Gainesville (Georgia) Red Elephants. He later played on the freshman baseball team at Wake Forest.

But before last week, he hadn't thrown a baseball for 30 years.

On Sunday night, Fusselle and Hall of Fame pitcher Juan Marichal, at Keyspan Park for an autograph-signing, were each scheduled to throw out the first pitch.

Because Fusselle's broadcasting duties required him to be on-air during the game's opening ceremonies, Fusselle came up with a unique idea. He decided that he would throw out his first pitch, not from the mound, as would Marichal, but from his Catbird Seat, a spot in the second deck behind the backstop screen.

Marichal stood on the Keyspan mound and went into a slower version of his patented high-kick wind up. He showed fine form and delivered a strike.

Now it was Fusselle's turn.

Fusselle was to throw over the backstop screen and into the glove of Cyclones pitcher Robert Paulk, who stood on the field about 45 feet from the screen.

The distance is farther than it appears, and there's not much room in the Catbird Seat to plant one's feet and throw.

Because of this, Fusselle had been counseled by Ray Rippleny, a pitching consultant on the Mets' player development staff, to throw a four-seam fastball — which has less sink than a two-seamer.

Fusselle had practiced the four-seamer a few times in the days before the event, and he had, judging from his practice attempts, about a 50-50 chance to get his throw over the screen.

Mahoney had pleaded with Fusselle to at least get enough steam on his throw to avoid hitting Mahoney's parents, seated in the fourth row.

Fusselle went into an abbreviated wind-up and tossed the ball towards a spot above the screen.

His throw sank and the ball hit near the top of the screen, leaving Paulk pleading for another try, which Fusselle declined.

Afterwards, Fusselle was somewhat embarrassed that his throw didn't get over the screen, but he went right back to work, missing a surprise taped presentation about him on the Keyspan Park video screen because he was so absorbed in his broadcast.

And that absorption in his broadcasts is why he was given the honor of having a bobble-head in his image. Fusselle has spent his career communicating, not pitching. It's no disgrace to fail in an attempt on a difficult throw.

Marichal looks in fine shape, as if he can still pitch.

So can Fusselle, who every night sends his vivid depictions far over the screen, across the field and then the ocean, via the Internet, into all corners of the world.

BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

A 'Nac' for homers

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

Ivan Naccarata, nicknamed "Nac," has a knack of his own — hitting home runs to right field.

In fact, he's done it more times — three — than any other player in Keyspan Park's history.

As ballpark regulars know, the wind at Keyspan usually blows in from the ocean behind the right field wall. In other words, the prevailing wind makes the 325-foot right field fence seem like 400 feet to batters.

According to statistics supplied by Cyclones announcer Warner Fusselle, only 20 home runs have been hit to right field in the history of the park.

Cyclones players have hit nine of those.

Until Nac came along, only Ivan Bladegren, who played with the Cyclones in 2003, had hit more than one home run to right.

But Naccarata has now hit right field homers on July 6 against Staten Island, Aug. 17 against Hudson Valley, and Aug. 19 against New Jersey.

The wiry infielder is listed at 6 feet tall and 190 pounds



— not too big for a power hitter. Apparently, he doesn't let his size affect his swing.

I just try to go with the pitch and be quick with the bat," Naccarata said, matter-of-factly, of his right-field homers.

And it seems to work.

The History of Bobble-heads

Warner Fusselle Bobble-head Night at Keyspan Park Sunday got us wondering: Just where do these things come from?

Well, it's a long story. According to Wikipedia, "the first figures to resemble what we call bobble-heads were called nodders."

These were produced in Germany, and they were large ceramic figures, 6 to 8 inches tall, with the figure's head connected to the body with a

light spring.

The first published reference to a bobble-head-like figure was in Nikolai Gogol's short story "The Overcoat."

The Ukrainian-born Russian writer made reference in the 1842 story when he described a motion as being "like the necks of plaster cats which wag their necks."

Bobble-heads generally began to be produced in the United States in the 1950s. Major League Baseball began producing bobble-heads in 1960 with a set that featured a bobble-head representing each team.

The figurines became very



Juan Marichal

popular in the 1970s, and then receded in popularity until the 1990s with a resurgence of interest that has become a craze.

In recent years, bobble-heads have become much more individualized than in the past, with Fusselle's likeness being the latest in a list of broadcast announcer dolls.

Juan & only

Hall of Famer Juan Marichal was in town to help promote the New York-Penn League's inaugural All-Star Game — played Tuesday at Keyspan Park — and to throw out the first pitch at Sunday's contest.

Marichal's appearance here is interesting because of an incident on Aug. 22, 1965, when Marichal, a member of the San Francisco Giants, was batting against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Catching for Los Angeles was Johnny Roseboro, a former Brooklyn Dodger.

After an argument between the two, Marichal took his bat and smashed it against Roseboro's head.

So it might have been considered a bit ironic last Sunday when Marichal had the honor of throwing out the first pitch during Sunday's game against the Aberdeen Iron-



Cyclone Ivan Naccarata is the only player to hit three home runs over the right field wall at Keyspan Park.

birds. Here was a man who once attacked a former Brooklyn player, being honored in Brooklyn.

But Marichal has often expressed regret over the inci-

dent, and Roseboro eventually forgave Marichal for what he did.

In fact, Marichal was a pallbearer at Roseboro's funeral last year.

Clones heat up down the stretch

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn 9 New Jersey 1

Aug. 17 at Keyspan Park

The Cyclones pounded 17 hits in a slaughter.

After the Cardinals (26-30) scored on a sacrifice fly in the first by Brandon Yarbrough, Brooklyn (29-26) tied the score in the bottom of the inning when Joe Holden singled and later scored on a sacrifice fly by Nick Evans.

Brooklyn took a 4-1 lead in the second with three runs on four hits and two Cardinal errors. Holden and Jesus Gamero each had RBI singles.

The Cyclones continued the slugging in the fifth, when Ivan Naccarata hit a two-run homer, and Nick Evans added a solo shot.

Starter Jeff Landing (4-5) earned the win.

Brooklyn 4 Williamsport 3

Aug. 18 at Keyspan Park

(11 innings)

Mike Sharpe singled in Ivan Naccarata with the winning run in the 11th inning as the Cyclones won their third straight.

Williamsport (32-25) had a 3-0 lead when Brooklyn



The Cyclones' Caleb Steward slams a three-run homer to put his team ahead during eighth inning of Sunday night's game. The Clones beat Aberdeen 9-6.

scored a run in the fifth after Greg Gonzalez singled, stole second and scored on Naccarata's double.

Brooklyn (30-26) added a run in the sixth when Sharpe singled, stole second and later scored on a ground out by Joe Holden.

The Cyclones tied the game at 3-3 in the ninth when Greg

Gonzalez singled and scored on Caleb Stewart's double. Brooklyn later had the bases loaded with no one out, but failed to score.

Naccarata started the Cyclones' winning rally in the 11th when he singled and stole second. Sharpe then hit a single to left to drive in Naccarata, giving Brooklyn the win.

Travis Hope (4-1) pitched three scoreless innings to get the win for the Cyclones.

Brooklyn 5 Williamsport 2

Aug. 19 at Keyspan Park

Brooklyn took a 3-2 lead in the third and shutout the Crosscutters. The rest of the way to move within half-a-

game of the second place and a wild card berth in the playoffs.

After Williamsport scored a run in the first, Brooklyn tied the game in the bottom half of the inning thanks to homer to right by Matt Anderson.

In the Cyclones' third, Dirmir Chavez singled and scored on Greg Gonzalez' triple. Gonzalez scored the go-ahead run on Matt Anderson's sacrifice fly.

Brooklyn (31-26) added insurance runs in both the seventh and the eighth.

Starter Jorge Reyes (4-3) earned the win.

Aberdeen 5 Brooklyn 0

Aug. 20 at Keyspan Park

Aberdeen pitching held the Cyclones to four hits as starter and winning pitcher Julio Soriano (1-0) threw five innings of three-hit ball, and three Aberdeen relievers combined to allow only one baserunner.

The Ironbreds scored in the first on a Ryan Stienbach double followed by an RBI single by Ryan Fiman.

Aberdeen (21-37) added single runs in the fourth and seventh and two more runs in the eighth, the last run coming when Brooklyn (31-27) reliever Aristides Almaraz dropped the ball from his

hand while he was on the pitching rubber for a balk.

Brooklyn's four hits were all singles — by Greg Gonzalez, Caleb Stewart, Jesus Gamero and Mike Sharpe.

Cyclones starter Bobby Parrell (2-2) took the loss.

Brooklyn 9 Aberdeen 6

Aug. 21, at Keyspan Park

After 15 consecutive score-

less innings, the Cyclones bats finally came alive.

The Brooklyn fireworks began in the seventh when Jonel Pacheco led off with a homer to left.

Later in the inning, Caleb Stewart hit a towering three-run homer to left to give Brooklyn a 4-3 lead.

The Cyclones continued the onslaught in the eighth. Drew Butera's two-run double started the scoring and the Cyclones tacked on three more runs after Butera's hit.

Aberdeen reliever Don Levin ski (0-2) had the loss while Brooklyn's reliever Travis Hope (5-1) had the win. Brooklyn went into the All-Star break in third place, eight games behind the McNamara Division-leading Staten Island Yankees, and one-and-a-half games behind the second place Williamsport Crosscutters, also in competition with Brooklyn for a wild card spot.

BROOKLYN CYCLONES

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